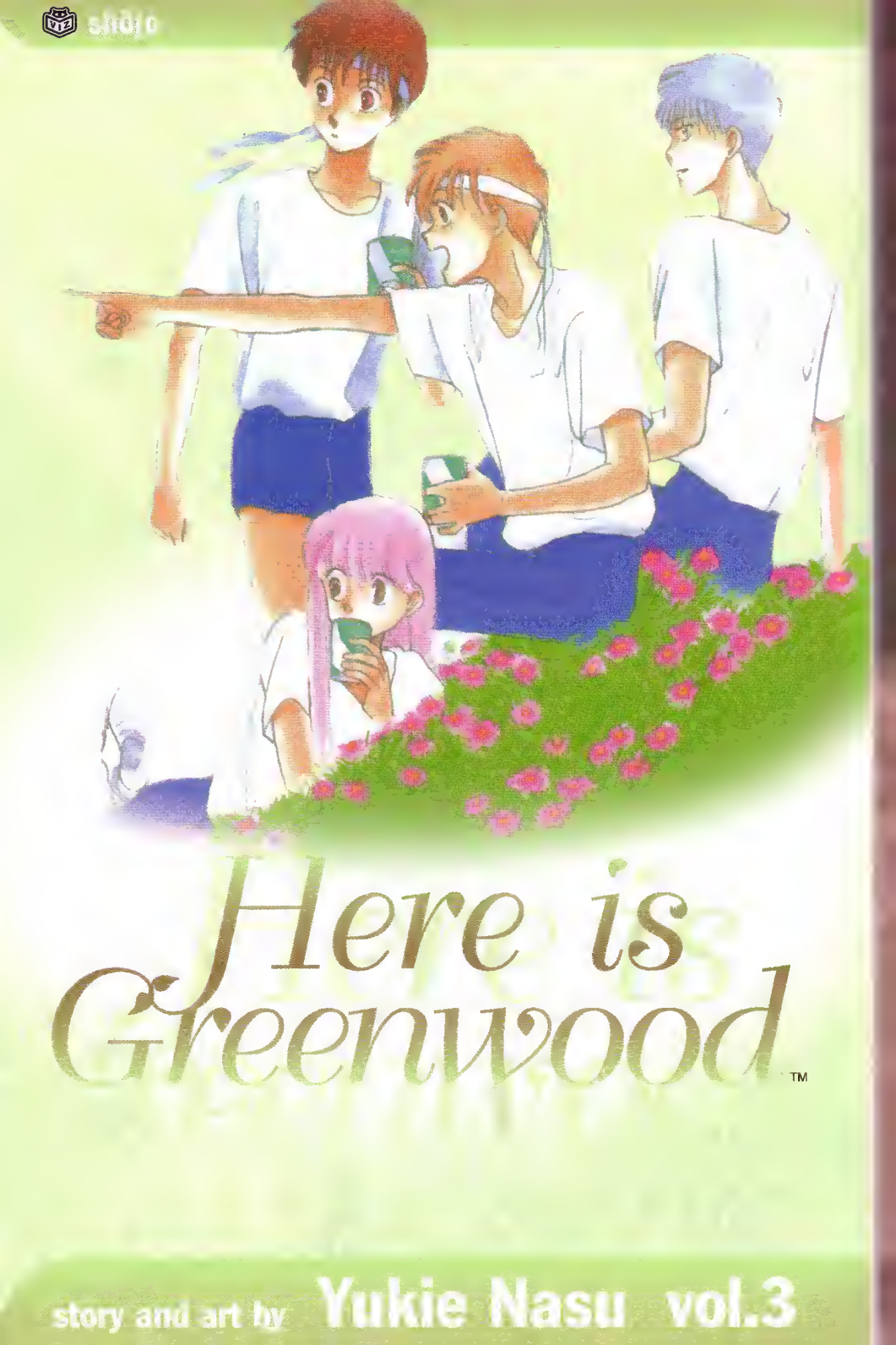
紫色の潔白

Purple Innocence

DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I'LL BE WATCHING...

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!


shôjo
Here is Greenwood
TM
story and art by Yukie Nasu vol.3

Here is Greenwood™

Vol. 3

Story and Art by

Yukie Nasu

Translation Notes

Cultural Note: Sensei refers to teachers, artists and other positions of honor. It can be used as an honorific (as in "Suzuki-sensei") as well as a title (as in simply referring to Doctor Suzuki as "Sensei"). It works in much the same way as "Doctor" in English.

Cultural Note: Every school has an athletics festival and a cultural fair. The athletics festival usually consists of a few gung-ho members of each class and the hapless students they can rope into competing in the events. But there are other schools with long athletics festival traditions where it is considered an honor to compete. The cultural fair, like most school fairs in America, consists of food booths and amusement centers created by the students.

Cultural Note: The song Benana-mura no Ame ga Furu (*Rain Falls on Banana Town*) became a big hit on the popular NHK program Minna no Uta (*Everybody's Song*) in 1967 (page 34).

Cultural Note: The Conan that the guy on page 45 is talking about is probably Mirai Shonen Conan (*Future Boy Conan*), one of Hayao Miyazaki's (*Spirited Away*) early animated TV series.

Cultural Note: The mask that Shinobu wears on page 51 is that of the tricky mythical raccoon-like Tanuki spirit.

Cultural Note: Sometimes there are references even we don't understand, such as the "Just Married" thing on page 68.

Cultural Note: Captain Kinyama is the captain of the team of heroes featured in the live-action show, Ultra Seven.

Cultural Note: Pia Magazine (Page 97) is an obvious reference to Pia, which is a weekly magazine that lists the times and locations for every movie, concert, art show and all other pop culture events that go on in Tokyo.

Cultural Note: Senpai/kohai relationship—Since "Here is Greenwood" takes place in school, the senpai-kohai relationship is a crucial aspect of the students' lives. It is much like the Western mentor-protégé relationship, but in a school dorm setting. Senpai, the senior students, are expected to look after the interests of their kohai (juds them, help them with their problems, give them referrals, and be their counselor. Kohai are expected to respect their senpai, do chores or menial tasks, follow orders, and learn.

—William Flanagan

Here is Greenwood
Vol. 3
Shojo Edition
Story and Art by Yuki Nasu

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
HERE IS GREENWOOD is rated T+ for Older Teen. This volume contains suggestive situations. Recommended for older teens (16 and up).

THE POWER OF YOUTH

Here is Greenwood.

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Target Idol 85

New Year's Photographs 135

Noblesse Oblige 161

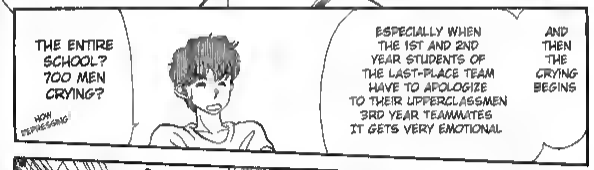
Love Youth and Us 207

THE
POWER
OF
YOUTH

ANY QUESTIONS?
I WOULD LIKE EACH OF YOU REFEREES TO PREPARE FOR THE FESTIVAL.
THE BUSY DAYS LEADING UP TO THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL BEGAN.
AM JOURNEY
THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL REFEREE COMMITTEE IS HEREBY
VERY WELL PLEASE TAKE YOUR HAND-OUTS
AND SOME OF US STILL HAVE SWIM MEETS.
THE END OF SEPTEMBER IS PRETTY MUCH STILL SUMMER.
WHAT? YOU'RE OLYMPIC MATERIAL?
MINE WAS IN MAY.
IN MY MIDDLE SCHOOL, IT WAS HELD IN NOVEMBER
THESE TWO MEN ARE THE REFEREES FROM YEAR 1, CLASS C.
I AM! AND YOU'RE IN F, AREN'T YOU?
I SEE... YOU'RE IN CLASS D THIS YEAR!
HA HA HA HA

AS RYOKUTO ACADEMY MOVES TOWARD THE NEW TERM...
THE SPIRIT OF SUMMER WALTZES THROUGH TO SEPTEMBER.
SUDDENLY
Meeting Room
AND THE ACTIVITIES I'VE JUST DESCRIBED
...SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT DAILY UNTIL THE DAY OF THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL.

1st Year A B C D E F G
2nd Year A B C D E F G
3rd Year A B C D E F G
For a total of seven teams.
BUT THEY DO COMBINE CLASSES TO MAKE UP THE TEAMS
AND AMIDST ALL THE PRACTICES AND THE SUPPORT YOU GIVE YOUR TEAM COMES A STRANGE SENSE OF UNITY—KIND OF LIKE HOW A PROFESSIONAL SPORTING LEAGUE TEAM FEELS.
I WOULDN'T CALL IT UNUSUAL
DO YOU DO ANYTHING UNUSUAL DURING THE FESTIVAL?


THE ENTIRE SCHOOL? 700 MEN CRYING?
NOW REPRESSING!
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE 1ST AND 2ND YEAR STUDENTS OF THE LAST-PLACE TEAM HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO THEIR UPPERCLASSMEN 3RD YEAR TEAMMATES IT GETS VERY EMOTIONAL
AND THEN THE CRYING BEGINS

AAAAAHH!!
AND YOU ARE MY SERVILE UNDERLING!!
AND THE "GENERAL" OF CLASS C IS NONE OTHER THAN THE FAMOUS MITSURU IKEDA!
AH! THAT MEANS THAT YOU, SUKA-CHAN AND MITSURU-SEMPAI ARE TEAMMATES!
THAT'S RIGHT!
EH?

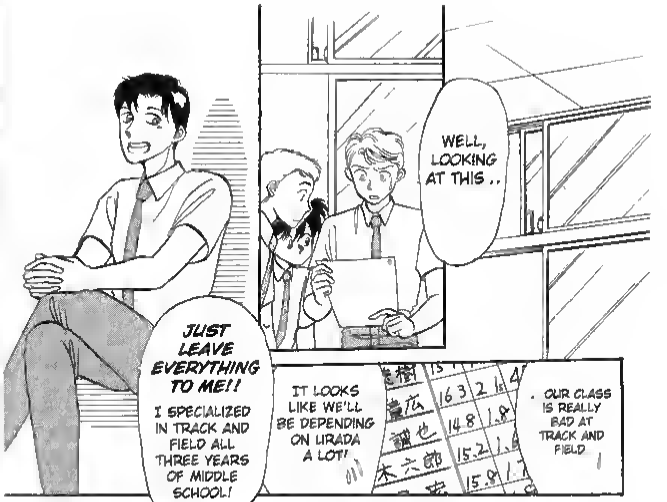
YOU'RE LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN? THEN I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE!
YOU KNOW I'LL BEAT YOU THIS YEAR!
WHICH MEANS WE'RE GOING UP AGAINST EACH OTHER AGAIN!
HEH!

FWAHAHAHAHAH
THEY'RE PROBABLY 3RD-YEAR STUDENTS WHO WERE "GENERALS" FOR CLASSES G AND B LAST YEAR.
Wher the heck?

WE GET WORKED UP OVER OUR ATHLETICS FESTIVAL

Reiji?
IT WAS THE WORST RIVALRY I'D EVER SEEN

WOW! WHATTA GUY!
WE'RE ITCHING FOR ACTION!
THE UPPER-CLASSMEN HAVE COME CHARGING IN!
IN MY CLASS, TOO...
RYOKUTO STUDENTS, AFTER SUFFERING THROUGH SUMMER, TURN THEIR SURPLUS ENERGY INTO THE POWER OF YOUTH.
I AM THE GENERAL OF THE CLASS B TEAM!!
1-C
I THINK THAT ATHLETES SHOULD BE CHOSEN BASED ON THE RESULTS OF OUR APRIL PHYSICALS
YES, URADA
..AND WE'LL BE CHOOSING THE ATHLETES FOR EACH EVENT TODAY, SO YOU WILL EACH HAVE TO REGISTER. WE WILL DECIDE BY..
IT'S FINE! IT'S THE BEST CHOICE!
YOU THINK USING PHYSICAL SCORES ARE ALL RIGHT?
AND I FOUND OUT THAT THE OTHER CLASSES ARE REGISTERING
TO WIN, WE SHOULD PROBABLY DO THE SAME
BUT I THINK THAT WOULD MAKE THE RESULTS TOO BIASED.
THE ODDS FAVOR CLASS E WHO'S FIELDING 13 TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES.
AND...
.. AND NO ONE STANDS OUT AS AN ACCOMPLISHED ATHLETE IN CLASS C
I'M SORRY, MITSURU, BUT I'VE LOOKED AT THE DATA...
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF DATA?
THERE ARE DEEP DOUBTS ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF CLASS C
MY CLASS, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF
THEN THERE'S CLASS A.
AS PRESIDENT OF THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, I AM NEUTRAL
I'M ALLOWED TO COMPETE, THOUGH.
EVER SINCE THE LEGENDARY RYOKUTO ACADEMY WAS ESTABLISHED AND BEGAN ITS ANNUAL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL....
MEN OF CLASS B!!
AH! THEN YOU, SHINOBU-SEMPAI, ARE THE CLASS A "GENERAL"?
THEN IT'S A SHOW-DOWN!!
OH BOY! OH BOY!
WELL, AS LONG AS I'M INVOLVED, THE OUTCOME IS COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE!
TSK TSK TSK

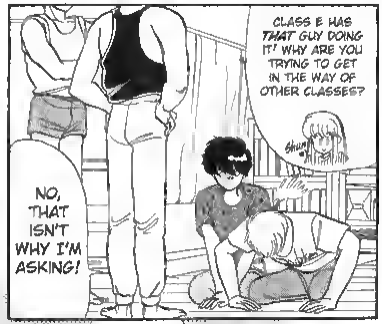

WELL, LOOKING AT THIS..
JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!!
I SPECIALIZED IN TRACK AND FIELD ALL THREE YEARS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE DEPENDING ON URADA A LOT!
. OUR CLASS IS REALLY BAD AT TRACK AND FIELD
WHO'S THIS?
HE'S GOT FASTER TIMES THAN URADA.
AH!
I DOUBT THERE'S ANYONE ELSE WITH SOME KIND OF TRACK AND FIELD EXPERIENCE. .
EH?
HASUKAWA

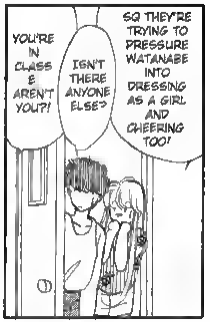
100 METERS IN 11 SECONDS? THAT COULD BE A NATIONAL RECORD!
SNAP
BUT. . AREN'T THESE NUMBERS OFF?
OH, YEAH! I'VE SEEN YOU RUN. YOU'RE PRETTY FAST!
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, IT WAS 11 SECONDS
THE GUY TIMING YOU MUST HAVE WRITTEN IT DOWN WRONG!
IF A COMPLETE BEGINNER AT TRACK AND FIELD CAN DO THAT, WHO WOULD NEED TRAINING?
ESPECIALLY FOR HASUKAWA WHO ISN'T EVEN A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE ATHLETIC CLUBS! IT'S UNTHINKABLE!
GRR
WELL, EXCUSE ME!
ARE THE CLASS REPRE-SENTATIVES STILL HERE?!
AND HERE AS WELL—
AND IF WE DO THAT, WE SHOULD DEFINITELY PUT HIM IN ONE OF THE BLANK SPOTS OF THE RELAY RACE WITH IKEDA..
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE SHOULD CONSIDER HIM RIGHT BEHIND URADA FOR TRACK EVENTS

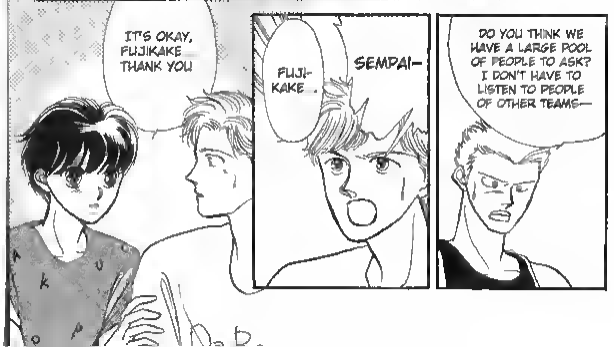
BOW
IKEDA-SEMPAI
AH! TH-THANK YOU! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO!
THIS IS THE REP FROM 3RD YEAR, SAITO-SEMPAI.
YOU'RE THE CLASS REP?
WE JUST WANTED TO SAY HI BEFORE WE DO THE COMBINED PRACTICES
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.
DOES THIS MEAN THAT MITSURU IKEDA IS THE GENERAL FOR CLASS C?
HM?
YES, SIR! JUST NOW..
DO YOU HAVE YOUR ENTRIES?
?

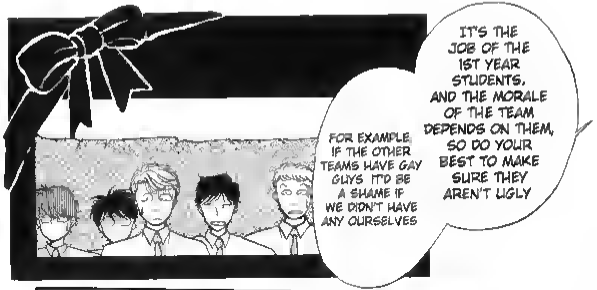
THE RECORDS NEVER REALLY HELP US
BUT, UM, THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS RECORDED PRETTY BAD TIMES WE MIGHT SLOW YOU DOWN.
WHAT WE NEED ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN GIVE 100% DURING THE ACTUAL RACES! EVEN GOING BEYOND THEIR NORMAL SPEED!
WHOOSHH
WE'LL START PRACTICING AFTER SCHOOL LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST!
SEE YOU!
OH, AND ONE MORE THING!
FWIP
I HEARD THE GENERALS OF OTHER TEAMS ARE PRETTY CONFUSED!
ISN'T IT GREAT THAT MITSURU IKEDA IS OUR GENERAL?
I ALMOST THINK WE CAN WIN SOMETHING!
HUH?
AND FIND ONE TO PLAY THE FEMALE CHEER-LEADER PART!
ONCE ALL THE ATHLETES ARE DECIDED WE'LL ALSO NEED A CHEERING SQUAD GRAB TWO OR THREE GUYS WHO LOOK LIKE THEY'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO

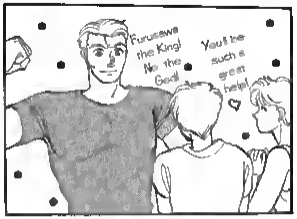
PLEASE! FIND SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO IT!
AND ASKING HIM TO WEAR GIRLS' CLOTHES IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
WATANABE ISN'T THE ATHLETIC TYPE! HE HAS A WEAK BODY, AND IS COMPLETELY INDECISIVE! IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S ABSOLUTELY UNFIT FOR YOUR CHEERING SQUAD!


NO, THAT ISN'T WHY I'M ASKING!
CLASS E HAS THAT GUY DOING IT? WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO GET IN THE WAY OF OTHER CLASSES?

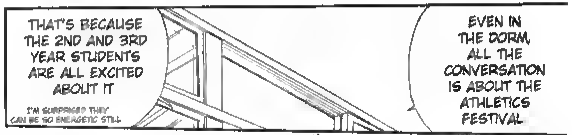

YOU'RE IN CLASS E AREN'T YOU?!
ISN'T THERE ANYONE ELSE?
SO THEY'RE TRYING TO PRESSURE WATANABE INTO DRESSING AS A GIRL AND CHEERING TOO!


IT'S OKAY, FUJIKAKE... THANK YOU
FUJI-KAKE...
SEMPAI—
DO YOU THINK WE HAVE A LARGE POOL OF PEOPLE TO ASK? I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE OF OTHER TEAMS—


FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE OTHER TEAMS HAVE GAY GUYS IT'D BE A SHAME IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OURSELVES
IT'S THE JOB OF THE 1ST YEAR STUDENTS, AND THE MORALE OF THE TEAM DEPENDS ON THEM, SO DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE SURE THEY AREN'T UGLY


Furusawa the King! No the God!
You'll be such a great help!

It's just sports, after all.
DON'T GET DEPRESSED KARASAWA!
Well excuse me for being such a sports lame-o!


THAT'S BECAUSE THE 2ND AND 3RD YEAR STUDENTS ARE ALL EXCITED ABOUT IT
I'M SURPRISED THEY CAN BE SO ENERGETIC STILL
EVEN IN THE DORM, ALL THE CONVERSATION IS ABOUT THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL

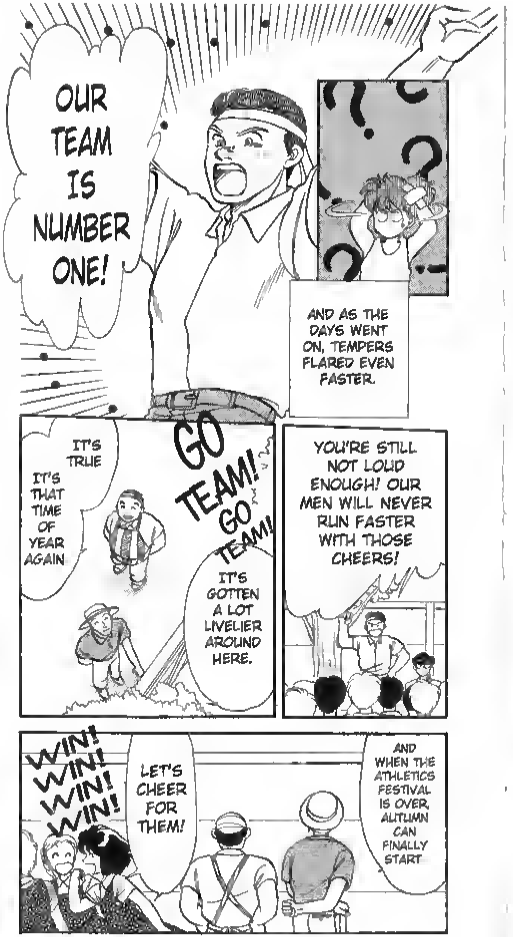
Please!!
I told them I didn't want to wear those clothes, but they kept insisting.
I FIGURED AS MUCH
AND I'M A CHEER-LEADER
MY EVENTS ARE THE 100-METER AND THE PIGGYBACK FIGHTS.

EVERYBODY GETS THE SAME!
YOU'RE THE SIXTH PERSON WHO SAID THAT!
HEY, I GET THE FEELING THAT THE GUYS FROM YOUR CLASS F GOT MORE IN THEIR SIDE DISHES THAN EVERYONE ELSE!
THE MEN OF RYOKURIN-RYO SLEEPING IN THE SAME ROOM AS THE ENEMY
AS THE MOOD GOT MORE INTENSE
...CAUSED CERTAIN PROBLEMS
THIS IS GIVING ME A HEADACHE
HEY! HEY!
What about her, then?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO SABOTAGE HIM ON THE DAY OF THE MEET!
HEY YOU'RE ROOMING WITH THE ACE FROM CLASS 1-A, RIGHT?
WELL... ... SOMETIMES IT'S A GOOD THING TO STIR UP ONE'S COMPETITIVE INSTINCT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY EVERYONE IS WASTING THEIR ENERGY ON JUST AN ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
EVERYBODY'S FAR TOO MUCH INTO THIS COMPETITION
Bath Room
SAY ONE WRONG WORD AND YOU GET SLAMMED

OKAY!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!
WE'RE ADVERSARIES DURING THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL, BUT LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!
YOSHIKI !!
WELL SAID!
I'LL DO IT
IT'S FOR THE TEAM, AFTER ALL.
AND I DOUBT ANYBODY ELSE IS FIT FOR THE POSITION
WATANABE SAYS THAT HE WANTS TO DO IT, SO THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
FUJIKAKE ...
I DON'T WANT ANY RIVALS
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY... IT'S JUST THAT I...
BESIDES, I'M SURE YOU WOULDN'T MIND SEEING HIM IN THOSE CLOTHES? HE'LL BE REAL CUTE!
Dai-Bo-Ryoku

1-C
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE RELAY?
YOU GUYS WOULD LOOK BETTER IF YOU HAD A FEMALE CHEERLEADER!
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT! BUT, LISTEN...
JUST WATCH OUT FOR THEIR OUTFITS ON GAME DAY!
...
OH, YEAH I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT MITSURU CAN WASTE MORE ENERGY THAN ANYONE ELSE
I... I CAN'T! UM... WITH MITSURU IKEDA AS THE ANCHOR ...
I'M TERRIFIED!
WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO PULL OUT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MR. SELF-CONFIDENCE!
I CAN'T. THEY DON'T ALLOW SUBSTITUTIONS THIS LATE IN THE GAME.
PLEASE!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU GUYS LIVE IN THE SAME DORM AND YOU DON'T KNOW?!
YOU'RE AFRAID?

START!!
... ON YOUR MARKS ... GET SET ...
I'M SORRY!
URADA!!
AH!
KLATTER
I LIKE THE HORSES IN YOUR RACE!
GIVE 'EM HELL, GENERAL!
3RD YEAR STUDENTS
SPECIAL TRAINING ON THE BATON PASS?
WHAP!
WHO WOULD EVER LET GO BEFORE BEING SURE THE HANDOFF IS COMPLETE?!
MITSURU!
HASU-KAWA... YOU SHOULD—

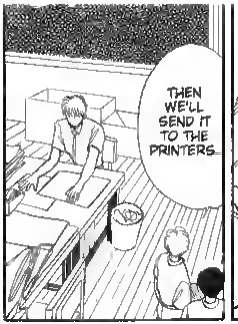

OUR TEAM IS NUMBER ONE!
AND AS THE DAYS WENT ON, TEMPERS FLARED EVEN FASTER.
GO TEAM! GO TEAM!
IT'S TRUE IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN
IT'S GOTTEN A LOT LIVELIER AROUND HERE.
YOU'RE STILL NOT LOUD ENOUGH! OUR MEN WILL NEVER RUN FASTER WITH THOSE CHEERS!
WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!
LET'S CHEER FOR THEM!
AND WHEN THE ATHLETICS FESTIVAL IS OVER, AUTUMN CAN FINALLY START

The Droopy-Eyed Punk
He looks gross, but cool
I..
.. WAS FAMOUS AS A HUGE JUVENILE DELINQUENT IN MY SCHOOL
MY MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS NEAR THE ONE THAT IKEDA WENT TO
AND IKEDA..
AHH! WHAT WOULD I DO?!
IF I WERE TO MESS UP ON THE DAY OF THE RACE, WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'D DO TO ME?!
1 - C
I NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BUT WHAT IF AFTER THEY'RE ALL STRIPPED NOTHING'S AT THE CENTER?
IT'S LIKE THE LAYERS OF THE MYSTERY THAT IS MITSURU ARE BEING STRIPPED AWAY ONE BY ONE
WHAP
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS THAT SEEM TO MATCH!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
HE MUST HAVE HIM CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE!
I CAN'T SEE IT!

AH!! NO! I MEAN ..
MR. HASUKAWA, WON'T YOU SHARE IN THE WEALTH?
I'M COUNTING ON THAT!
I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PAY BACK MR. HORIKAWA

THEN SIGN ME UP FOR CLASS C TO WIN.
WHAT? THIS GOES ALL THE WAY UP TO THE PRINCIPAL?
NO I'M DOING THIS AS AN INDIVIDUAL
I'VE COME TO DISCUSS SOME HEALTH CONCERNS TODAY.
BUT I FIND YOU'RE A PRETTY CORRUPT PRESIDENT

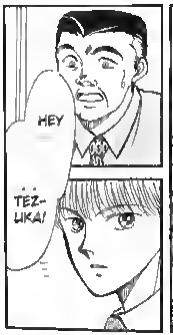
.. THEY ALSO HAVE KAZUYA.
MITSURU'S WEIRD AUTHORITATIVE POWER.
AND
WHAT'S YOUR BASIS FOR THIS?
THEY HAVE A HOLE IN THEIR ROSTER.

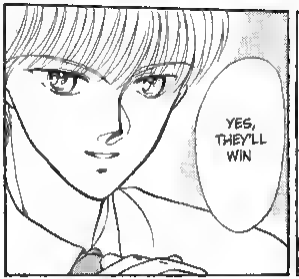

THEN WE'LL SEND IT TO THE PRINTERS.

PHEW!
OKAY.

Athletic Council Committee
MAIN OFFICE
Student Cour

SIR?
FEEL FREE TO COME IN NO ONE IS HERE.


HEY ... TEZUKA!


YES, THEY'LL WIN

THE CLASS A TEAM WILL REALLY WIN?

HM
I ASSUME YOU'VE COME TO A CONCLUSION

SWIM MEETS APPEN THE DAY EFORE
THEY ALL WENT TO CHEER IN THE SWIMMING MEETS.
THERE ARE LESS PEOPLE THAN I EXPECTED
I HAVE REFEREE DUTIES!
HASUKAWA, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? HELP WITH THE SET-UP!
ALL ATHLETES DOING TRAINING EXERCISES SHOULD VACATE THE GROUNDS IMMEDIATELY.
HASU-KAWA
WE'RE ALL FINISHED HERE!
GO FOR IT! WE NEED THE POINTS!
PRETTY COOL, HUH?
LOOK
Victory
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

UM... EXCUSE ME...
...BUT I'M A MEMBER OF THE STAFF NOW.
GRIMY
IF YOU LET YOUR EMOTIONS DICTATE YOUR BETS, YOU'LL REGRET IT, HASUKAWA!
HE USED TO BE KAZUHIRO'S ADVISOR YEARS AGO
AND SO...
TODAY, THE SCHOOL FACILITIES WILL BE USED FOR FESTIVAL PURPOSES
...WITH A LOT OF NOISE...
...IS DISTRACTING YOU!
THIS ATHLETICS FESTIVAL
.. THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL CAME
What's this? What's this?

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!
点 18 5
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!
2-C
BUT THE REAL COMPE-TITION STARTS NOW!
WE HAVE A SLIGHT HANDICAP.
RIGHT!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY SLIP-UPS!
I'M WONDERING ABOUT THE SAME THING MYSELF
1-C
AND THIS IS HOW TODAY'S ATHLETICS FESTIVAL KICKS OFF.
DOES CLASS C EVEN HAVE AN PARTICIPANT IN HERE?
GOT THAT, YOU BASTARDS?!

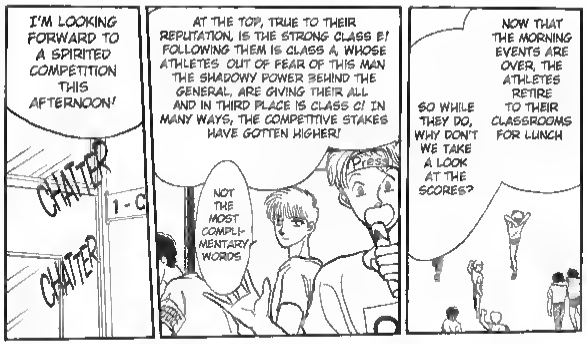
YEAAH!
ALL RIGHT!!
HEY!!
LET'S SHOW THE SPIRIT THAT BRINGS VICTORY!!
DON'T THROW A HAMMER, YOU IDIOT!
WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT IS THAT?
HOW'D IT GO?
THE SWIM MEETS ARE OVER!
WE HAVE THE WORST SCORE!
OVER THE COURSE OF FOUR EVENTS, WE ONLY SCORED FIVE POINTS.
THE WORST SCORE ?!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY!

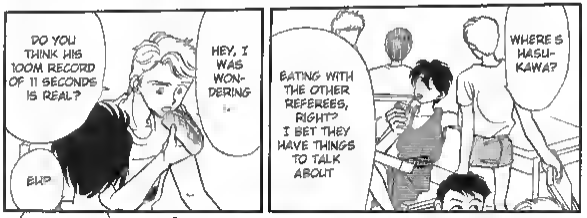
RYOKUTO ACADEMY STUDENT DIARY
ATHLETIC FESTIVAL CHAPTER
PRODUCED BY: VIDEO CLUB
AS THE 64TH ANNUAL SCHOOL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL GETS UNDERWAY!
THE GROUNDS OF RYOKUTO ACADEMY ARE BATHED WITH SUNLIGHT FROM A CLEAR SKY
THE ENTIRE SCHOOL IS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN TEAMS IN THIS TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE POWER OF YOUTH!
2-D
2-D
3-D
AND VERY SOON THE STARTING GUN WILL SIGNAL THE START OF FIERCE COMPETITION!
YAAAA!!
2-F

THE POWER OF YOUTH...

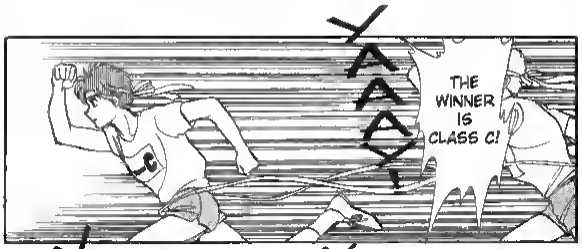
Go Team! I'm cheering you on!
Stop that!!!
Give us a break with the miniskirt will ya?
..THE FAKE FLOWERS OF RYOKUTO ARE IN TOP FORM!
SEMPAI, I'M SO SORRY THAT I'M NOT CUTE!
DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU THEY'RE THE WEIRD ONES
Here. He's mine! He is mine!!
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE DISTURBED BY HOW NORMAL THOSE TWO LOOK?
DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE THERE ARE MORE SPECTATORS THAN USUAL?
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO BE FAMILY
TO ALL ATHLETES ENTERED IN THE 200m RACE, PLEASE GATHER AT THE ENTRANCE GATE
CHEER GIRL FOR CLASS 1 YOSHITAKE TOMARU
Damn!
I'M SO GLAD I SIGNED UP AS A REFEREE EARLY!
HM
REFEREE

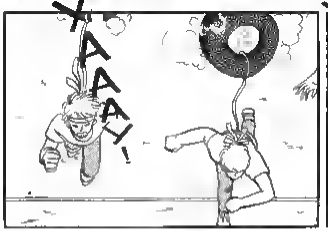
ZOOOOOM
VILLAGERS FROM BANANA MURA.
OF COURSE ...
THEY DEVISE ELABORATE CHEERS TO EGG ON THEIR CLASSMATES TO VICTORY!
HERE ARE THE CHEERING SQUADS FOR EACH TEAM!

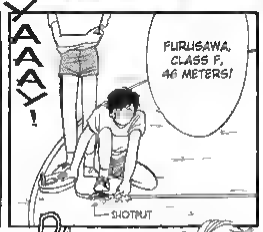

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A SPIRITED COMPETITION THIS AFTERNOON!
CHATTER
CHATTER
1-C
AT THE TOP, TRUE TO THEIR REPUTATION, IS THE STRONG CLASS E! FOLLOWING THEM IS CLASS A, WHOSE ATHLETES OUT OF FEAR OF THIS MAN THE SHADOWY POWER BEHIND THE GENERAL, ARE GIVING THEIR ALL AND IN THIRD PLACE IS CLASS C! IN MANY WAYS, THE COMPETITIVE STAKES HAVE GOTTEN HIGHER!
NOT THE MOST COMPLIMENTARY WORDS
NOW THAT THE MORNING EVENTS ARE OVER, THE ATHLETES RETIRE TO THEIR CLASSROOMS FOR LUNCH
SO WHILE THEY DO, WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCORES?


DO YOU THINK HIS 100M RECORD OF 11 SECONDS IS REAL?
HEY, I WAS WONDERING...
EH?
BATING WITH THE OTHER REFEREES, RIGHT? I BET THEY HAVE THINGS TO ABOUT
WHERE'S HASUKAWA?

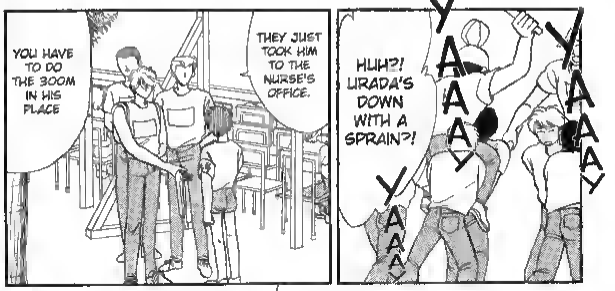
WE WILL SOON BEGIN THE AFTERNOON EVENTS.
AAAH!
POP
OH, MY STOMACH!
OH, THE RELAY RACE.
1-C
YOU SAW IT, RIGHT? IN THE 100M AND 200M, HE BROKE FROM BEHIND IN THE PACK TO WIN BOTH EVENTS.


YAAAY!
THE WINNER IS CLASS C!


YAAAY!


YAAAY!
FURUSAWA, CLASS F, 4.46 METERS!
SHOTPUT

THIS CONCLUDES THE EVENTS FOR THE MORNING
DA DA DAN
LOOK!
2-C
We did it!!
WE'RE UP TO THIRD PLACE!
RIGHT! SO NOW WE TAKE OUR MOMENTUM AND BRING IT TO THE AFTERNOON EVENTS!
THE GOAL IS TO WIN!!
IT'S YOUR JOB TO GET WORKED UP AND WIN IT! DO YOU HEAR ME?!
YEAH!!

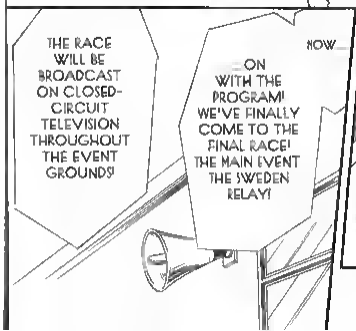

YOU HAVE TO DO THE 300M IN HIS PLACE
THEY JUST TOOK HIM TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

HUH?! URADA'S DOWN WITH A SPRAIN?!
YAAAY
YAAAY
YAAAY

YOU'RE GONNA RUN THE 300M LIKE IT'S WIN OR DIE!
LISTEN, PUNK! YOU KNOW THE SITUATION! OUR VICTORY DEPENDS ON THE RELAY RACE!!
GOT IT?!
P-PUNK?!

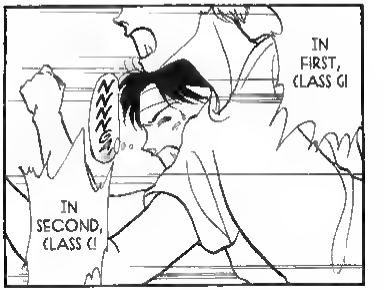
A SPRAIN LIKE THIS CAN BE VERY BAD. YOU THINK SO TOO, RIGHT? IT HURTS, DOESN'T IT?
Y-YES IT DOES!
IS IT SAFE TO LEAVE THIS GUY IN THE HEALTH OFFICE?

YOUR BROTHER THINKS SO
IS HE SPRAINED FOR REAL?
I-C


THE RACE WILL BE BROADCAST ON CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION THROUGHOUT THE EVENT GROUNDS!
NOW—ON WITH THE PROGRAM! WE'VE FINALLY COME TO THE FINAL RACE! THE MAIN EVENT THE SWEDEN RELAY!

WHY DO I HAVE TO RUN A STUPID RELAY RACE AS IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT?
DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE OKAY?
2-C

WA!
ZZZZ


IN FIRST, CLASS G!
NNNNN
IN SECOND, CLASS C!

HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?! GET UP AND GET MOVING!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY
1-F

What would be so interesting about an athletics festival for someone from another school?
It's a school day, you know...
YEAH? WHICH STUDENT? WHAT'S HIS YEAR? WHAT'S HIS CLASS? WHAT'S HIS NAME?
WE'RE THE YOUNGER SISTERS OF ONE OF THE STUDENTS!
I-C
YOU'RE NEXT!
THERE HE IS.
HASU-KAWA!!
YOU KNOW, AS REFEREE, I JUST CAN'T GET EXCITED ABOUT THIS COMPETITION

OW—
?!
OWWWWWW!!
I-F

2-D
THAT'S THE START!
THE POSITIONS NOW ARE CLASSES E, F, A, D, C.
THEY RACE OVER HALF THE TRACK AND HAND OFF THE BATON TO THE NEXT ATHLETE!
KLANK
WHA—
2-C
1-C
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

AND THE FANS HAVE AMPED UP THEIR CHEERING!
WITH A HUGE POINT VALUE, THIS ONE RACE CAN TURN THE COMPETITION AROUND!
THE SWEDEN RELAY IS COMPRISED OF FOUR RUNNERS EACH RUNNING DIFFERENT DISTANCES. 100M 200M 300M AND 400M.
HASUKAWA
1-C
3-
SECOND AND THIRD LEG RUNNERS, THIS WAY!
FIGHT!
YES!
BLAMM
2-B
YOU'RE THE LINCHPIN HERE.
GET SET!
ON YOUR MARKS!
IT'S THE MOMENT BEFORE THE STARTING GUN GOES OFF! EACH ATHLETE BUILDS HIS COMPETITIVE SPIRIT!
WHAT WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WESTWOOD BRENTWYD
Now, let's get this done!

THIS RACE HAS JUST BEGUN.

YES! DO IT! KEEP IT UP!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET EMOTION RULE YOU, HASUKAWA!

SUGIMOTO!!
SUGIMOTO!!

YAAA!
YAAA!
C
DON'T WORRY! THAT GUY CAN RUN THE 100M IN 11 SECONDS IF IT'S TRUE ..

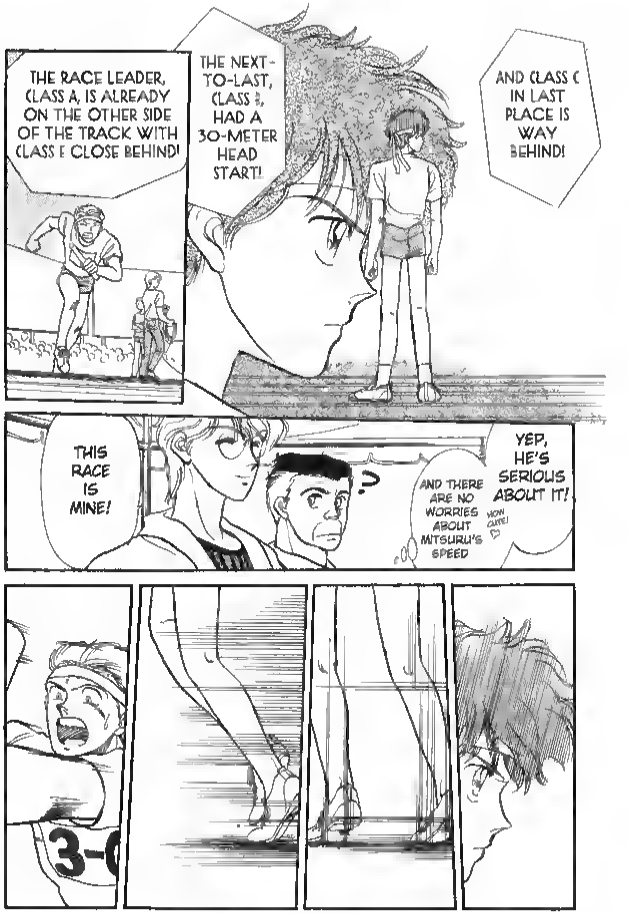
I-C
B
A
.....
DAMMIT !!
CLASSES B AND D HAVE PASSED HIM, AND NOW HE'S IN 7TH!

YAAA!
OH, NO! SUDDENLY THE CLASS C BATON FELL ON THE GROUND!

YAAA!
YAAA!
IN THE MEANTIME, CLASS A TOOK OVER THE FIRST POSITION! E IS SECOND, AND F IS FOLLOWING IN THIRD!

YAAA!
CLASS A HAS PASSED THE BATON TO THEIR THIRD RUNNER!
3-A
NOW CLASS E PASSED IT!

FAP
IT'S YOURS!!
AND CLASS B IN SIXTH PLACE IS— HUH?
THE MEMBERS OF CLASSES G, F, AND D ARE BUNCHED UP IN A GROUP, VYING FOR THIS PLACE!
EVERY RUNNER OF CLASSES A AND B IS A MEMBER OF THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM!
He's running like Conan!
THE CLASS B TEAM AS THEY SUDDENLY REALIZE THEY'RE LAST
COMING OUT OF THE FIRST CURVE, CLASS C HAS OVERTAKEN CLASS B FOR 6TH PLACE!
WHEN DID HE CATCH UP?
NO, CLASS C IS IN 6TH PLACE!
YAAAAY
YAAAAY
THE MIDDLE GROUP ISN'T FAR BEHIND THEM! AND AFTER THAT—
3-E
1-A
CLASS A, IN THE LEAD, HAS ENTERED THE SECOND CURVE!
CLASS E IS RIGHT ON HIS HEELS!


THE RACE LEADER, CLASS A, IS ALREADY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACK WITH CLASS E CLOSE BEHIND!
THE NEXT-TO-LAST, CLASS B, HAD A 30-METER HEAD START!
AND CLASS C IN LAST PLACE IS WAY BEHIND!
THIS RACE IS MINE!
?
AND THERE ARE NO WORRIES ABOUT MITSURU'S SPEED
YEP, HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT IT!
WON CUTE!
3-C

THE ONLY THING THAT COMES TO MIND ARE THE EPISODES OF KOKAR-KUN TURBO!
SUKA-CHAAN!?
I CAN ONLY WONDER WHAT KIND OF TIME HE'S MAKING HERE!
JUST BEFORE THE CURVE, HE OVER TAKES CLASS E AND MOVES INTO 2ND PLACE!
IT'S THE FINAL STRETCH OF THE LEG!
AND HASUKAWA HAS NAGASE FROM CLASS A RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!
THE ANCHORS, THE GENERALS OF EACH OF THE TEAMS, AWAIT!
AND THE ATHLETES ARE ALMOST IN THE ZONE!
THEY'RE NECK-AND-NECK!!
AND THE HANDOFF ..

2-A
2-B
AS WE ENTER THE SECOND CURVE, CLASSES G, F D, AND C ARE ALL TOGETHER!
THE 1ST-YEAR STUDENT FROM CLASS C, HASUKAWA, IS MOVING FAST!
CLASS C HAS CAUGHT UP!
EH?
GO! GO! GO!
IN THE THIRD CURVE, CLASS C HAS ALMOST CAUGHT UP BUT CAN HE MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE?
RUN! RUN!
1-C
MOVE!!!
HASUKAWA HAS TAKEN AN OUTSIDE LANE...
LOOK AT THAT! HE'S TAKING THE OUTSIDE!
AND OUT OF THE SECOND CURVE, HE'S IN 3RD PLACE!
GULP
WHEN DID THIS BECOME A HORSE RACE?
AND HE'S BEHIND CLASS E BY FOUR LENGTHS!
3-F

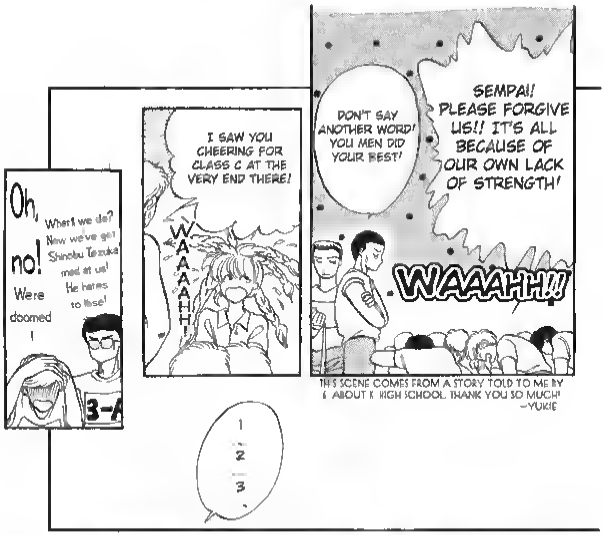
THE YOUNGER GIRLS FROM MITSURU'S OLD SCHOOL WHO CAME TO SEE HIM RACE
KYAAAA!
I KNEW THEY WEREN'T LEGIT!
HE'S ALWAYS SAID THAT MERELY LIVING TAKES UP HIS FREE TIME TO MAKE GOOD GRADES.
WHY ISN'T THAT GUY ON THE TRACK TEAM?
2-B
KYAAA
AND WE AWARD THE POINTS— CLASS C GETS 30 POINTS, CLASS A IN SECOND GETS 20, CLASS E IN THIRD GETS 10, 5 POINTS FOR 4TH, 3 POINTS FOR 5TH, 1 POINT FOR 6TH... AND WHEN WE ADD THEM IN...
...PASSES THE FINISH LINE WITH PLENTY OF ROOM TO SPARE!!
AND THE ANCHOR POSITION FOR CLASS C, MITSURU IKEDA.
CLASS C WINS!!
...THE RESULTS ARE.
7 0 4
3 C E
7 12 3 8 5
...AN UPSET! CLASS C IS THE WINNER IN A MAJOR UPSET!!
1-C
C

YOU OVERDID IT, YOU IDIOT!
IT DOESN'T
LEAVE ME ANYTHING TO DO!!
CLASS C HAS COMPLETED THE HANDOFF!!
ZUM
ZUM
HE'S USED UP ALL HIS STRENGTH AND IS BEING PULLED OFF THE TRACK BY THE REFEREES!
JUST WHAT KIND OF ATHLETE IS THIS HASUKAWA?
That was great! Amazing!
WHOA!!
HASUKAWA MADE UP 100 METERS AND PASSED SIX ATHLETES IN ONLY A LITTLE OVER HALF THE TRACK!
2-A

HEY! TEZUKA !!
NOW I UNDERSTAND THE "THEY HAVE KAZUYA" LINE
I WAS A FOOL TO IGNORE IT
2-A
IT'S AGAINST SCHOOL RULES TO HELP GAMBLERS
HASUKAWA! YOU COULD HAVE TOLD US THAT FROM THE BEGINNING!
WELL, AS THEY SAY, "THAT IS WHY THEY PLAY THE GAME."
THAT SEEMS TO BE SO.
I'M HOLDING YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! CLASS C WON!
.....
..DID YOU THINK THAT I HAD SOME UNDERHANDED PLAN TO ENSURE A WIN?
CAN YOU BLAME ME FOR HAVING CONFIDENCE IN MY OWN TEAM?
OR...
"WHY THEY PLAY THE GAME"? LISTEN
ALL THAT IS LEFT ARE THE CLOSING CEREMONIES.
AND WITH THE DRAMATIC COMEBACK WIN OF CLASS C, THE CURTAIN CLOSES ON THE 64TH ANNUAL SCHOOL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL!

YES ...
SENSEI?
NOW REGARDING THE MAGNIFICENT RACING EFFORT BY HASUKAWA WE JUST SAW...
WE HAVE HERE HASUKAWA'S OLDER BROTHER, THE MAN WHO RAISED HIM, AND WE'D LIKE TO HEAR HIS THOUGHTS...
FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, I'VE BEEN MONITORING THE GROWTH OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER...
2-C
...BUT NOT ONCE IN ALL THAT TIME...
1-C
HEY! ARE YOU OKAY, HASU-KAWA?
IF THERE IS ANYONE RUNNING AHEAD OF HIM, HE'LL PASS THEM AND WIN.
HE'S OBVIOUSLY AVERSE TO LOSING
WHAT IS HE SAYING ?
2-C
...HAVE I EVER SEEN HIM PASS THE FINISH LINE BEHIND SOMEONE ELSE...
I SEE! SO HASUKAWA HAS THAT GOOD A TRACK RECORD!
DOES THAT MEAN THAT IF HASUKAWA IS ON THE ANCHOR LEG, HE'LL ALWAYS WIN?

THE WINNERS WRITE HISTORY
YOU ARE PRETTY CONFIDENT
WELL . .
SO I CAN'T COMPLAIN
I ALREADY COMPLAINED BUT
...LITTLE JERK!!
IF YOU HAD THAT KIND OF TALENT, WHY DIDN'T YOU STEP UP AND VOLUNTEER?! DON'T EVEN TRY TO SAY YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO IT!
YOU WANTED ME TO WORRY ABOUT LOSING, YOU TRAITOR!!
HEY THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD HAVE GUARANTEED YOU A VICTORY!!
IF YOU RAN THAT LEG, YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE EXACTLY THE SAME THING!!
GRIN
YEAH!
YOU the interview, the hero!!
YEAHH!!
OF COURSE THERE'S AN AWARD!
BUT EVEN IF WE CALL YOU THAT THERE'S NO AWARD FOR IT
IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.
3-C
EH?
EH?
EH?
1-C
MEET OUR...
MVP!!
AND IN WALKS A TRUE PRINCESS.
QUIT IT, YOU CREEP!
WHAT'S ACCEPT AN AWARD LIKE THAT?!
Let go of me idiot!!
HE GETS A NICE, RESTORATIVE KISS FROM THE PRINCESS OF CLASS C!


Oh, no! Were doomed!
What we do? Now we've got Shinobu Tezuka mad at us! He hates to lose!
3-A
I SAW YOU CHEERING FOR CLASS C AT THE VERY END THERE!
WAAAAH!!
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD! YOU MEN DID YOUR BEST!
SEMPAI! PLEASE FORGIVE US!! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF OUR OWN LACK OF STRENGTH!
WAAAHH!!
THIS SCENE COMES FROM A STORY TOLD TO ME BY K ABOUT K HIGH SCHOOL. THANK YOU SO MUCH! —YUKIE
1
2
3

WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT ALL OF US* CONTRIBUTED TO THIS WIN
WE HAVE TO ADMIT
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, OUR TEAM CAME IN FIRST!!
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
Yeah!
MR PRESIDENT!!
BANZAI!
BANZAI!
EH?!
SWEET POWER!
THAT THIS YOUNG MAN WILL BE THE ONE REMEMBERED FOR THIS VICTORY!

THE TRAGEDY OF S

SUMIRE ...?!
YAKKUN!!
YAKKUN, I SAW THE WHOLE THING! I EVEN GOT IT ON VIDEO, AND IT WAS WONDERFUL!! YOU WERE SO COOL!
WHO'S THAT?
HASU-KAWA'S SISTER-IN-LAW
AND KNOWING THAT I WAS YAKKUN'S OLDER SISTER MADE ME SO ..HAPPY!!
HON-ESTLY !!
I LOVE YOU!!
ODDLY...
YAKKUN ?
HUH?
IS THAT REALLY AN OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE?
KAZUYA HASUKAWA ENJOYED AN OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE AS GREENWOOD LOOKED TOWARD AUTUMN

DING DONG DING
THE RYOKUTO ACADEMY SCHOOL FAIR RUNS OVER THE COURSE OF TWO DAYS UNDER THE CLEAR, COLD, END-OF-NOVEMBER SKIES
THE FIRST DAY WAS FOR THE STUDENTS THE SECOND IS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC
WILL IKEDA, THE FESTIVAL COUNCIL HEAD OF...
STOMP
...PLEASE REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY! REPEATING...
WILL IKEDA, THE FAIR COUNCIL HEAD OF EMERGENCY SERVICES...
OH, HUSH UP! I'M COMING! MEN CAN BE SO UNREASONABLE!
HE'S REALLY INTO THE PART!

THE TRAGEDY
OF S

63
CHATTER CHATTER
64
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE UNFAIR?
IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU ALWAYS WEAR!
BUT IT'S NO SHOCK TO SEE YOU IN WOMEN'S CLOTHES.
DON'T BE GETTING ALL COMPETITIVE WITH HIM!
Humph!
BLAME THE ONES WHO VOTED FOR HIM
HE'S THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THE WHOLE "RYOKUTO QUEEN" AWARD, AND HE'S THE ONE WHO WINS IT.
JUST WHO CAME BACKSTAGE TO LAUGH AT US, BUT ONLY STARED AT US IN WONDER?
YOU KNOW THAT IT'S UNUSUAL FOR A GUY TO LOOK GOOD IN WOMEN'S CLOTHES!

EHHHHH?!

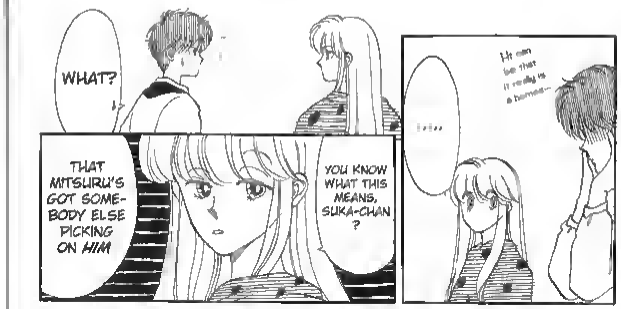
S.D.
OH! IT'S SEMPAI!
THEN THE NEXT LUNCH IS YOUR TREAT
BUT, HEY! I MAY HAVE TWO WEEKS' WORTH OF LUNCH TICKETS LEFT OVER! THIS ACTUALLY IS A BIG CHANCE FOR ME!
"RYOKUTO QUEEN TURNS AROUND."
THE PRIZE FOR BEING RYOKUTO QUEEN A SET OF FREE MEAL TICKETS. IN THE DORM, THEY ONLY PROVIDE BREAKFAST AND DINNER, AND IF A DORM RESIDENT ISN'T CAREFUL, HE COULD GET MALNUTRITION BY SKIPPING LUNCH.
YOU JUST GOT BACK?
YES BOTH YOU AND SHINOBU ARE BACK EARLY.
THIS GUY IS THE DRAG QUEEN I ROOM WITH IN THE DORM.
THE OTHER TWO ARE THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND THE HEAD RESIDENT WHO WON THIS YEAR'S "QUEEN" PRIZE.
AND IT'S NOTHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT, YOU KNOW!

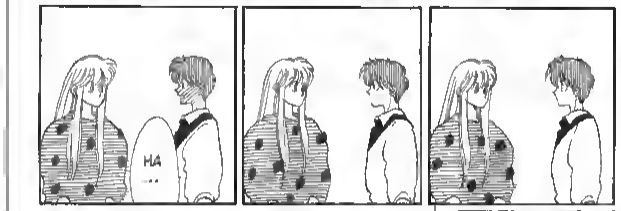
RYOKUTO ACADEMY IS A BOYS' SCHOOL
ONCE THE FAIR IS OVER AT A BOYS' SCHOOL, THERE IS NO TO-MORROW YOU IDIOT!
In Japanese, "tomorrow" is spelled with the characters for bright sun, so tomorrow must be a bright day!
DON'T WORRY! TOMOR-ROW IS ANOTHER DAY!
HA HA HA
NOW THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED IT I HEARD THAT THERE WERE QUITE A FEW GIRLS WHO CAME ON CAMPUS. DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ANYBODY SCORING?
I didn't stare in wonder!! I was disgusted!
Cafeteria
SO THE ONLY STUDENTS HERE ARE GUYS, BUT...
SEE YA!
THE REQUESTS FOR NUMBER 64 HAS RISEN TO THREE FIGURES
NUMBER 64?
TODAY IS THE DEAD-LINE FOR REQUESTING COPIES OF PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE SCHOOL FAIR.
CHATTER CHATTER

WHEN DID IT START?
HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT DELICATE A PERSONALITY
ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T IMAGINING IT? A LITTLE PARANOIA HAPPENS EVERY NOW AND THEN
EVER SINCE THE SCHOOL FAIR...
...I'VE NOTICED IT EVERY DAY.
IT'S GOTTA BE ROUGH BEING A POPULAR GUY, HUH, MITSURU?
NAW
THERE'S NOTHING "ROUGH" ABOUT IT!
YOU SHOULD TRY IT YOURSELF SOMETIME!
IT'S A WOMAN, RIGHT?
THEN IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR TWO FULL WEEKS.

MITSURU? WHAT'S WRONG?
TMP
TWEL
MITSURU

YOU'RE BEING STALKED?
211
HOW IS IT THAT THE GUY CAN RUN AWAY SO FAST?
HE GOT AWAY AGAIN?


WHAT?
THAT MITSURU'S GOT SOMEBODY ELSE PICKING ON HIM
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, SUKA-CHAN?
Hmm
Let that it really is a burnout...
Eeeee


HA
...

HASUKAWA!
GRIP!
UM. SOME OOLONG TEA FOR KAME-SEMPAI.
WHAT'S LEFT TO BUY?
NOW HE CATCHES ON
WAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

I DON'T MIND AS LONG AS THEY'RE GENTLEMEN!
YEAH THERE MAY BE A GUY OR TWO WHO WANTS TO MAKE THE RYOKUTO QUEEN HIS OWN!
I THINK BOTH OF YOU HAVE HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK
SCARY THOUGHT!
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A WOMAN IT MIGHT BE A GUY WITH EXACTLY THE SAME MOTIVE
I won't be able to rest until you're dead, dead, dead!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE!
Sempai!
Sempai!

BUT AFTER THAT...
?
?
...WE'D SEE THE GUY SHADOWING MITSURU EVERY DAY BETWEEN SCHOOL AND THE DORM, OR ON THE WAY TO BUY GROCERIES
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS JUST WATCHING THE MOVES THAT MITSURU MADE.

I DON'T CARE HOW BASHFUL THE GUY IS ALL THIS TIME WITHOUT SHOWING HIS FACE IS JUST WEIRD!
IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS IT SOUNDS KIND OF CREEPY TO ME.
I HEAR THAT THING WITH MITSURU IS STILL GOING ON.
RUMORS OF IT BEGAN TO BE THE TALK OF THE DORM.

SHE WAS TALL AND HAD STRAIGHT HAIR IN A PAGEBOY CUT.
SHE WAS HIDING IN THE SHADOWS AND STARING AT MITSURU-SEMPAI
YEAH. .
ARE YOU SURE, TOCHIZAWA ?
I WOULDN'T SAY SHE WAS STARING AT YOU BECAUSE SHE LIKED YOU...
THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER
SHE SUDDENLY NOTICED THAT I WAS THERE, SO SHE LEFT QUICKLY..
BUT .
THERE'S A GIRL AT THE DOOR THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. MAYBE SHE'S THE ONE WATCHING YOU
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! I'VE NEVER BEEN RUDE OR COLD TO A GIRL! (AND I'M NOT EVEN COMPLIMENTING MYSELF!)
HATRED? NOW THAT SEEMS MORE LIKE YOU.
HEY! MITSURU!
HE OUTRAN YOU? SUKA-CHAN?
H-HE MUST'VE GONE 'ROUND A CORNER SOMEWHERE!
©AMNIT!
AWW
HEY!!
JUST AROUND THAT CORNER! AFTER HIM!!
THIS IS HOW WE FOUND OUT THAT SHE WAS A GIRL.
MITSURU?
UM.. TODAY I SAW
SOME GIRL WHO LOOKED LIKE THAT
Furo Bath Room
YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE BESIDES I'M BEING STALKED BY PERVERTS, CAN YOU?
NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING
JUST BECAUSE THE PERSON HAD A RIBBON DOESN'T PROVE SHE'S A GIRL
I LOST TO A GIRL?!

THAT'S TRUE. ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE'S FOLLOWING A MAN WHO GIVES ANY GIRL A HEARTY WELCOME REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF GIRL SHE IS
THERE'S NO REASON TO RUN
HOW DOES SHE GET AWAY ?!
AWW... DAMMIT! WE LOST HER AGAIN!
HUH?
SO IF SHE WANTS TO MEET HIM, ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS .
NOW HE'S ANGRY !
A GIRL MIGHT DO THIS ONCE OR TWICE, BUT IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS!
AND IF IT'S SOME SOLITARY GAME, THERE'S NO REASON TO INCLUDE ME IN IT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE FEELS ABOUT ME. BUT I DON'T SEE ANY REASON TO CONTINUE THE SAME BEHAVIOR FOR THIS LONG!
THUMP

SEMPAI, WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS SHE?
SHE SAW ME AND RAN.
SHE'S NOT THERE ANY-MORE
TMP
NO, THAT WASN'T THIS GIRL
A PAGEBOY HAIRCUT ?
SHE HAD LONG HAIR, DOWN TO HERE
AND SHE WAS KIND OF SHORT
ONE WHO LIKES YOU AND ONE WHO HATES YOU.
BOTH AT THE SAME TIME?
IT COULD BE ONE OR THE OTHER .
OUR EYEWIT-NESSES ARE GIVING DIFFERENT STORIES
BUT THERE MAY BE TWO OF THEM.

I NEVER HEARD THE NAME IN MY LIFE!
SO IT IS JUST A PROBLEM WITH ONE OF YOUR GIRLFRIENDS!
TWITCH
KAITO ?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP, YOU SHAMELESS JERK!!
SHINOBU, DO YOU THINK THAT MAYBE THIS RIRIKO IS THE LONG-HAIRED GIRL...
PRO-BABLY
HOLD ON A SECOND! WHAT'S WITH THE "NOT LET ME HAVE HER" TALK...?
I'LL NEVER LET RIRIKO HAVE YOU!
THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU TODAY!
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A HANDSOME FACE DOESN'T GIVE TRASH LIKE YOU THE RIGHT TO MAKE GIRLS CRY!
RIRIKO IS...
ARE YOU HER SISTER OR SOME-THING?
JUST WHO IS RIRIKO ANYWAY?
SHE SAYS SHE WANTS TO SEE IKEDA!
THE TALL GIRL I SAW— SHE'S OUT BACK!
MITSURU!!
SO THERE YOU ARE, MR. PLAYBOY.
LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'M A FRIEND OF RIRIKO KAITO.
WHO ARE YOU?
Since her mouth was close to mine he goes
GRR

COOL!
She's a real lesbian high school student
ALL RIGHT!
SHOW SOME CLASS WILL YA, GUYS?
WHAT!
BUT SHE'S SO PRETTY!
OH
WOW!
I THINK SHE JUST NEVER KNEW WHAT A BOYS' SCHOOL IS LIKE
YOU'RE A WOMAN OF COURAGE

LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT HERE
THIS IS.
THIS IS WHY MEN ARE SO
TH-

EHHHH?!
RIRIKO IS MY LOVER !!
EH—
SHUT UP, FOOL!!
I TOLD YOU THEY'D BE SEXUAL DEVIANTS
HUH? WHAT?
THEY'RE REAL LES-BIANS?
YOU'RE LES-BIANS?!
YOU MEAN HER?!
WHERE? WHERE?

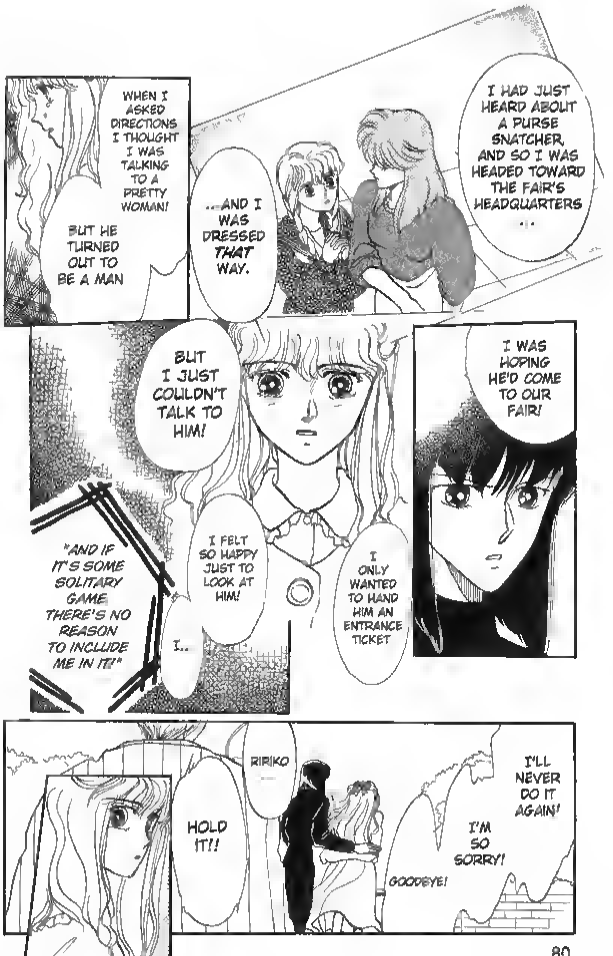
I WAS GOING TO CHALLENGE YOU FOR THE HAND OF RIRIKO, BUT I'VE CHANGED MY MIND
?
IT MAY BE TRUE THAT RIRIKO HAS BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY, BUT...
NOT ONCE HAVE I EVER SEEN HER!
I SEE...
YOU INTEND TO DENY EVERYTHING
WAAAA!! NOW HOLD ON ONE SEC-OND!
AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK, I'D SAY
VERSUS YURIE AKI, THE CAPTAIN OF THE KURISU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL KARATE CLUB
A MAGGOT LIKE YOU..
I WILL REARRANGE YOUR FACE SO RIRIKO WILL NEVER WANT TO LOOK AT IT AGAIN!
HYAAAAA!!
NO MERCY

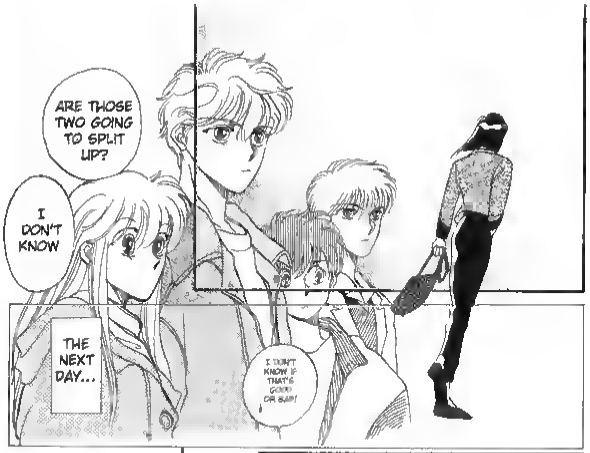
SHE WAS A GIRL WHO NEVER ONCE EVEN TALKED ABOUT BOYS..
What's that supposed to mean?
RIGHT AFTER THAT, RIRIKO STOPPED GOING TO HER CLUB FUNCTIONS.
WITHOUT TELLING ME, SHE STARTED COMING HERE!
HYUUUUUUU
RIRIKO IS ON THE BOARD OF OUR CULTURAL FAIR
SHE WENT WITH ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER TO CHECK OUT WHAT RYOKUTO ACADEMY WAS DOING WITH THEIR FAIR
I STARTED TO GET ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF GUY HE WAS, SO I FOLLOWED HER AND WAS LED TO YOU.
RIRIKO COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE!
BUT SOMEBODY AT RYOKUTO MANAGED TO STEAL HER AWAY!
I WANT YOU TO LOOK INTO YOURSELF AND REALIZE JUST WHO IS TO BLAME FOR IT!
This time I really have no clue.
BUT YESTERDAY, RIRIKO CAME BACK IN TEARS!!
She's praising you and insulting you.
I COULD UNDERSTAND HER FIXATION WITH YOU
IF YOU WERE A PROPER MAN, I COULD JUST ACCEPT IT AND QUIETLY GIVE UP.
IT WAS PROBABLY EASY FOR YOU TO SEDUCE AN INNOCENT SOUL LIKE RIRIKO!

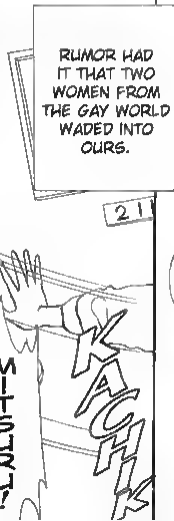
KA SHOOM
I GUESS I GOTTA DO THIS HASU-KAWA, HOLD THIS
OKAY
SHF
SO YOU HAVE SOME SKILLS OF YOUR OWN
RIRIKO?!
STOP IT!!
THEN I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK!

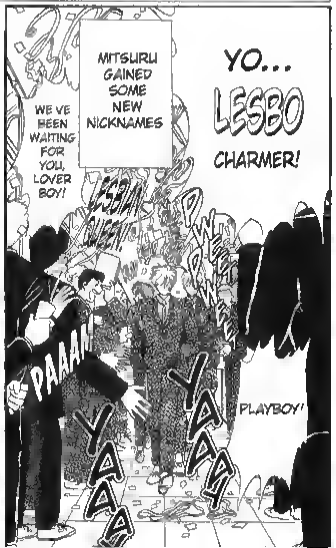
RIRIKO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
STOP IT, AKI-SEMPAI! HE ISN'T TO BLAME!
AND YOU COULD KILL HIM!
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING! I CAME HERE ON MY OWN!
I WAS THE ONE WHO FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! IT'S AN UNREQUITED LOVE!!
Does that mean Yun Pha is in the karate club too?
AH!!
I CAN'T ATTEST TO EVERYTHING BUT... YEAH
YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING?
YOU'RE THAT GIRL WHO ASKED WHICH WAY THE BATHROOM WAS!
HE'S A MAN! YOU CAN'T STAND MEN!
WAIT!
UNRE-QUITED LOVE RIRIKO?

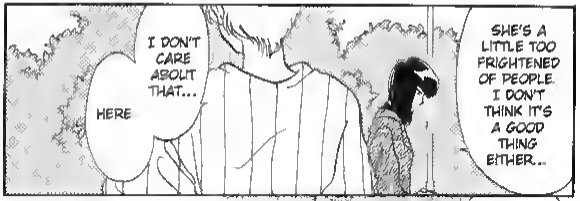
I'LL TAKE THAT TICKET
YOU CAME TO MY FAIR, SO I'LL RETURN THE FAVOR
AH...
THE CULTURAL FAIR...
...WAS OVER 10 DAYS AGO.
I'M SORRY I EMBARRASSED YOU
NO...
You got it worse than I did.

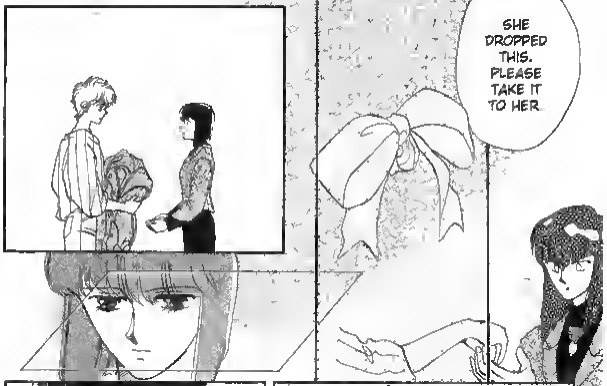

WHEN I ASKED DIRECTIONS I THOUGHT I WAS TALKING TO A PRETTY WOMAN!
BUT HE TURNED OUT TO BE A MAN
...AND I WAS DRESSED THAT WAY.
I HAD JUST HEARD ABOUT A PURSE SNATCHER, AND SO I WAS HEADED TOWARD THE FAIR'S HEADQUARTERS
BUT I JUST COULDN'T TALK TO HIM!
I WAS HOPING HE'D COME TO OUR FAIR!
"AND IF IT'S SOME SOLITARY GAME THERE'S NO REASON TO INCLUDE ME IN IT!"
I FELT SO HAPPY JUST TO LOOK AT HIM!
I ONLY WANTED TO HAND HIM AN ENTRANCE TICKET
I...
RIRIKO
HOLD IT!!
I'M SO SORRY!
I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN!
GOODBYE!


ARE THOSE TWO GOING TO SPLIT UP?
I DON'T KNOW
THE NEXT DAY...
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S GOOD OR BAD!

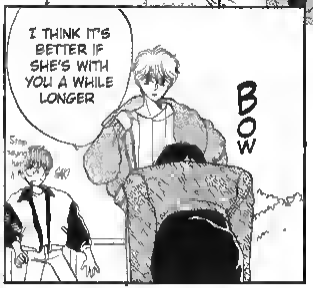

RUMOR HAD IT THAT TWO WOMEN FROM THE GAY WORLD WADED INTO OURS.
21
MITSURU!
KACHK
IT'S GOTTA BE ROUGH BEING A FEMALE GAY


MITSURU GAINED SOME NEW NICKNAMES
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, LOVER BOY!
YO... LESBO CHARMER!
LESBIAN QUEEN!
PAAA!
YAAA
YAAA
PLAYBOY!


I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT...
HERE
SHE'S A LITTLE TOO FRIGHTENED OF PEOPLE. I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD THING EITHER...


SHE DROPPED THIS. PLEASE TAKE IT TO HER.

THANK YOU. .
BUT I DOUBT THAT WILL HAPPEN


I THINK IT'S BETTER IF SHE'S WITH YOU A WHILE LONGER
BOW

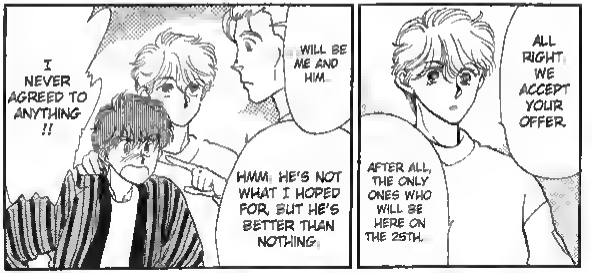
TARGET: IDOL

I DIDN'T COME TO SEE YOU TODAY.
Then why?
WHAT?!
JUST LIKE CAPTAIN ERIYAMA!
MS AKI IS HERE AGAIN!
EH?
OH, NOT AT ALL!
UM, HEY WAIT!
I'M STRAIGHT TOO, BUT
SOMETHING'S JUST NOT RIGHT HERE!
Let's go, honey!
I'M GOING STRAIGHT!
SO IT'S A HAPPY ENDING
HAVE FUN, KIDDIES!
JUN UYU
WHO I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD
ACTUALLY THERE'S
SOMEONE I MET THE OTHER DAY
EVER SINCE RIRIKO BROKE UP WITH ME, I CAN'T STOP THINKING OF YOU!

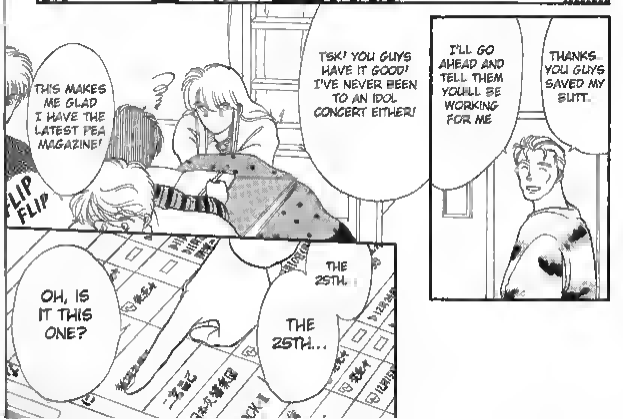
TARGET: IDOL

YOU'LL BE BACK AT HOME, SHUN-BO
IT'S ON THE 25TH.
THAT'S SO COOL! I WANT TO DO IT!
DOES THAT MEAN YOU GET IN FOR FREE?
YOU MEAN CONCERT STAFF?
FURUSAWA-SEMPAI'S GIRLFRIEND REQUIRES A LOT OF MONEY, HM?
NO, THIS IS A DIFFERENT JOB
DID YOU QUIT YOUR JOB AT THE LIQUOR STORE?
OH. THAT'S RIGHT
BUT KNOWING YOU AND THE HEAVY METAL AND PUNK MUSIC YOU LIKE...
I WAS CONTRACTED FOR TWO MEN'S JOBS.
Furusawa's amazing!
TWO PEOPLE ?
AND I NEED A COUPLE OF PEOPLE TO COVER FOR ME
I SCREWED UP WHEN I TRIED TO PURCHASE MY TICKET HOME THE ONLY ONE I COULD GET WAS FOR THE 23RD

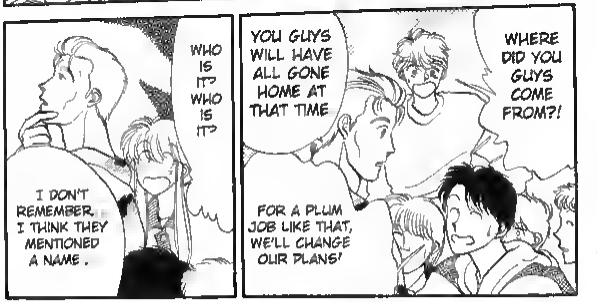
HEY, MITSURU!
THAT'S WRONG!
IT WAS NIGHTTIME, JUST BEFORE THE END-OF-TERM EXAMS
WHUMP
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD WORK FOR ME AT MY PART-TIME JOB
IT'S MANNING THE TICKET BOOTH DURING CONCERTS
ONE OF THE SCHOOL ALUMS I KNOW GOT IT FOR ME.
THAT DEPENDS ON THE WORK


I NEVER AGREED TO ANYTHING !!
WILL BE ME AND HIM.
HMM. HE'S NOT WHAT I HOPED FOR, BUT HE'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
ALL RIGHT. WE ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.
AFTER ALL, THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL BE HERE ON THE 25TH.

I-I NEVER DISAGREED TO ANYTHING EITHER.
IS THAT SO?
YOU MAY SAY NO, BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO A CONCERT, HAVE YOU? YOU'VE NEVER WORKED EITHER, HAVE YOU?


THIS MAKES ME GLAD I HAVE THE LATEST PEA MAGAZINE!
FLIP FLIP
TSK! YOU GUYS HAVE IT GOOD! I'VE NEVER BEEN TO AN IDOL CONCERT EITHER!
I'LL GO AHEAD AND TELL THEM YOU'LL BE WORKING FOR ME
THANKS. YOU GUYS SAVED MY BUTT.
OH, IS IT THIS ONE?
THE 25TH.
THE 25TH...

THIS CONCERT IS FOR ONE OF THOSE FEMALE IDOL SINGERS
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
...I'D BE AFRAID OF GETTING KILLED IN THE MOSH PIT.
DO-DO-DOOOM
WE'LL DO IT!!


WHO IS IT? WHO IS IT?
I DON'T REMEMBER. I THINK THEY MENTIONED A NAME.
YOU GUYS WILL HAVE ALL GONE HOME AT THAT TIME
FOR A PLUM JOB LIKE THAT, WE'LL CHANGE OUR PLANS!
WHERE DID YOU GUYS COME FROM?!

I GET THE FEELING IT'S A BAD OMEN.
HURRY HASU-KAWA!
WE'LL BE LATE!
FOR THE FULL STORY SEE HERE IS GREENWOOD VOL. 1
MIEKO NITTA (18) IDOL SINGER
I START THIS YEAR WITH MIEKO NITTA, AND I END IT WITH MIEKO NITTA.
SHE MET THREE MEN IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR WHEN SHE DISAPPEARED FROM HER LUXURY APARTMENT.
SO LET'S BE SURE THAT THERE IS NO CONFUSION OR ACCIDENTS AMONG THE PAYING GUESTS
AND IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY LET'S TAKE CARE OF IT QUICKLY AND QUIETLY
SO PAY ATTENTION TO THE THINGS THAT WE DISCUSSED AT THE PREPARATION MEETING THE OTHER DAY, AND MANAGE YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS

AND SO ...
... TIME PASSED
SEE YA! GOOD LUCK, GUYS!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY ... THAT THIS IS WHAT SOME WOULD CALL FATE.
Dec. 25th
Mieko Nitta X-mas

ALL RIGHT! OPEN UP!
YOU SHOULD GO IN THROUGH ENTRANCE B
RIGHT THIS WAY
CHATTER
CHATTER

Good work! You're lining up Furuzawa, right?
HEY, LOOK AT THEM ALL LINED UP!
IT'S ALL GUYS!
AH! THERE'S A TICKET SCALPER!
I WONDER WHAT I'M WORKING FOR!
CHRISTMAS ISN'T A TIME TO BE SPENDING WITH OTHER GUYS!
?
ARE YOU A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?
HEY! HEY!
BEATS ME.
SO WHAT ARE THEY LINED UP FOR?
I THINK SO
THOSE GUYS LINED UP OVER THERE HAVE RESERVED-SEAT TICKETS, RIGHT?
WE'RE ABOUT TO OPEN THE DOORS!
QUIT GOOFING OFF!
Whoa! we've got work!
S-SURE
Heh heh heh! You're cute! Hang in there, okay?
Which college are you planning for?
Yay! Kyoto U Academy!

MIEKO!!
YEAAAAAAAAAH
.....!
I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO SEE ME TODAY!!
LET'S ALL HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS TOGETHER!

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAIT
6:35
NO SMOKING NO PHOTOGRAPHY
THE CONCERT WILL BEGIN. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY PHOTOGRAPHS.
IN A FEW MOMENTS
CHATTER
GO!!
ONE
TWO
THREE

WHOAAAA
YAAAAH!
YAAAAH!
YAAAAH!
YAAAAH!
MIEKO!
MIEKO!
MIEKO!
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP

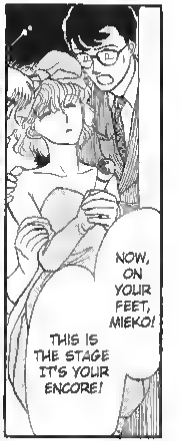
YEAH!
Are you ready?
IF SHE DIES DURING THE PERFORMANCE, I MAY HAVE TO GIVE BACK MY PAY!
I-I'M GONNA BE OKAY RUNNING SO MUCH?
HFF HFF

SSSKAA
SSSKAA
SSSKAA
PLEASE...
...TO THE STAGE..
SOMEBODY TAKE ME...
MIEKO! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
THEY'RE SCREAMING FOR YOU!
YOU HAVE AN ENCORE!

MR. SUGITA! YOU CAN'T!!
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP
SOMEBODY LEND A HAND!
ALL RIGHT! YOU GOT IT!

FASH

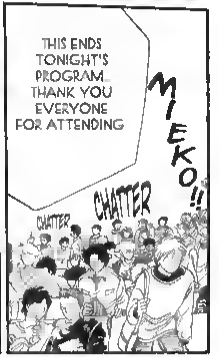
ENCORE


NOW, ON YOUR FEET, MIEKO!
THIS IS THE STAGE IT'S YOUR ENCORE!

THANK YOU EVERY BODY!
SEE YOU!
SHE'S A PRO
Yo! Yo!
Merry X'mas!

YAHoo!
YA AAAH!
YA AAAH!
YA AAAH!
JA-JAAN

KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
FASH
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
FASH


THIS ENDS TONIGHT'S PROGRAM. THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING
MIEKO!!
CHATTER
CHATTER

SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU PERSONALLY, BUT WE'RE PINNED DOWN HERE.
GLANCE
GLANCE
MIEKO TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE WORKING HERE
YEAH .
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING WE'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU. ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW?
MITSURU KNOCKED THIS PERSON OUT PREVIOUSLY (SEE VOL. 1 FOR DETAILS.)
SO YOU'RE THE ONE SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT...
I MUST SAY, I REMEMBER YOU WELL AS IF I COULD EVER FORGET
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT
THEN COME TO THIS PLACE TOMORROW . .
THANK YOU. SEE YOU THEN.
THEY'RE SURROUNDED HOW DO THEY BREAK OUT?
IT'S SOMETHING THAT CELEBRITIES DEAL WITH ALL YEAR.
BUT SHE'S HALF-DEAD! HOW DOES SHE—
?
WEEDS

PONK
GOOD WORK
HAHHH! IT'S FINALLY OVER. SOMEONE SAID "PARTY." BUT THEY GOTTA BE KIDDING! I DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO ASK FOR AN AUTOGRAPH
Phew!
HEY MR. IKEDA! MR. IKEDA!
NEXT TIME, I'M GOING TO BUY AN ACTUAL TICKET!
MIEKO REALLY IS AMAZING!
STAFF PASS ONLY
HELLO.
You know him?
MIEKO NITTA'S MANAGER SAYS HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU
HE'S IN THE WAITING ROOM
YEAH...
IT'S MIEKO'S MANAGER THAT YOU. .
AH! MITSURU! THAT GUY .

I'M SORRY..

PANT

...TO MAKE YOU WAIT

FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO BE WORKING AT MY CONCERT

WHY IT WAS ALMOST A MIRACLE!

I'M STILL SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP BACK THEN...

HASUKAWA!

UM.. IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, YOU'RE ...UH..

OF COURSE!

YES, THAT'S RIGHT!

I'M SO SORRY!

HO HO HO HO HO HO

Was somebody injured?

What's going on?

WEEYOO WEEYOO WEEYOO

WEEYOO WEEYOO WEEYOO

I WONDER WHAT THAT GUY WANTS TO DISCUSS?

NO IDEA

WHAT I'M WONDERING...

HMM..

SO SHE WAS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL?

...IS WHETHER MIEKO CAN COME TOMORROW.

CHORE

CAFE

NOW, TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KOU
KOU
...FOR YOU TWO..
WHAT WE WANTED WAS... WELL, ACTUALLY...
HUH?
...TO BECOME MIEKO'S BODYGUARDS FOR A SHORT TIME
BUT WHY ASK US OUT OF THE BLUE? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WE COULD HIRE OTHER PEOPLE. BUT VERY FEW PEOPLE KNOW MIEKO LOOKING LIKE SHE DOES NOW
AND YOU TWO HAVE PROVEN THAT YOU CAN KEEP THAT A SECRET.
BODY-GUARDS, YOU SAY?
IT'S GOT A CERTAIN NOSTALGIC RING TO IT

THEY SAY IT'S SOME SORT OF MALICIOUS HARASSMENT
...HAVE A PART IN A DRAMA THAT THE OXTV NETWORK IS PRODUCING.
AND DURING FILMING, THERE HAS BEEN A SERIES OF ODD ACCIDENTS.
YOU SEE, I.
IT HAPPENS FROM TIME TO TIME IN OUR INDUSTRY.
AND I'M JUST SO SCARED!!
THERE'S REALLY NO REASON TO TARGET A MINOR CELEBRITY SUCH AS WE REPRESENT
What? I do? I'm so frightened!
OFF STAGE, MIEKO IS ALWAYS JUST AS YOU SEE HER NOW
OF COURSE NOT!
BUT WHY?
DOES SOMEBODY HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST MS NITTA?
ONLY DURING THE DRAMA?
WE'RE UP FOR AN AWARD, SO THAT COULD BE A REASON. . ALSO, THESE ACCIDENTS ONLY OCCUR WHILE SHOOTING THE DRAMA. IT'S ODD

OR WHAT? LEAVE HER WITHOUT HELP?
BESIDES...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT TAKING THIS JOB JUST LIKE THAT?
SEMPAI!!
KOFF KOFF KOFF
BUT I NOTICE GIRLS THE SAME WAY. HE CAN'T CRITICIZE MITSURU MUCH.
THAT WAS WHAT YOU WERE REALLY AFTER, WASN'T IT?
OXTV IS A TREASURE CHEST OF BEAUTIFUL FEMALE ANNOUNCERS!
THIS HARASSMENT— IS IT VIOLENT?
SIP SIP
IT MUST BE A TOUGH JOB
JUST REMEMBERING IT ALL MAKES ME A LITTLE DIZZY
THERE WAS A BOMB PLANTED WITH THE SUSHI IN MY BENTO LUNCH BOX.
WHILE WE WERE SHOOTING ON LOCATION, I WAS ALMOST FORCED OVER A CLIFF.
SOMEONE PUT ARSENIC IN THE OOLONG TEA IN MY CANTEEN.
YES, IT IS
FOR EXAMPLE...

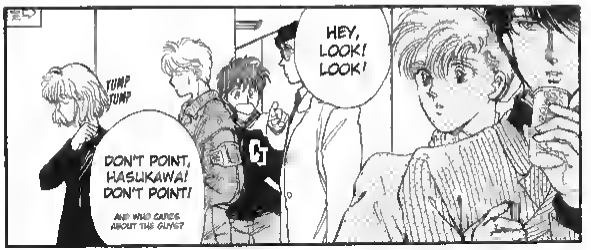
AND THAT'S LEFT MIEKO OUT IN THE COLD.
BUT WITH THE END OF THE YEAR, THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE IS OVERWORKED AND SHORT-STAFFED
BUT WE WILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE GETTING INTO.
IF WE DO THIS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO INTO A TV STUDIO AND MEET FAMOUS PEOPLE!
AND IF I LEAVE HOME, I'LL HAVE TO LIE TO MUMMY.
RIGHT.
SO UNTIL NEW YEAR'S WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS ON OUR OWN.
AND THERE ARE ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT FOR THIS YEAR ON THE SHOOTING SCHEDULE SO THIS WILL BE FOR ONLY THOSE TWO DAYS
PLEASE DON'T FAIL US.
AND SINCE YOU ARE THE ONLY ONES SHE CAN RELY ON, YOUR PAY WILL BE VERY GENEROUS.
MIEKO FEELS THAT IF IT IS YOU TWO, SHE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
YOU'LL TAKE THE JOB?
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YOU TWO WERE MY LAST HOPE! I REALLY—
WE'RE IN!
A TWO-DAY JOB, RIGHT?

TARGET: IDOL

I MUST SAY THAT SHE SEEMS MUCH BETTER NOW THAT SHE'S MET WITH YOU.
YOU'RE SAYING THIS HAPPENS FROM TIME TO TIME?!
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... I HAVE TO VISIT THE LITTLE GIRL'S ROOM.
UM. WE JUST—

AHEM
ACTUALLY
I ONLY SAID, "IT WAS NORMAL," TO TAKE SOME STRESS OFF OF MIEKO.
I KNOW THAT THERE IS NOBODY WHO WOULD DO SUCH THINGS AS "HARASSMENT"!
HUH?

EHHHHHH?!
AND THAT'S WHY YOUR PAY WILL BE SO GENEROUS
EH...
...SOMEBODY IS ACTIVELY TRYING TO KILL HER.


HEY, LOOK! LOOK!
TUMP TUMP
DON'T POINT, HASUKAWA! DON'T POINT!
AND WHO CARES ABOUT THE GUYS?

...ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET THROUGH THESE TWO DAYS WE WON'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS WITH OXTV FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
THEY'VE GIVEN US THE COMPLETE SHOOTING SCHEDULE, AND ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TIME IT WILL END...
IN ANY CASE, IT'S JUST TODAY AND TOMORROW TWO DAYS

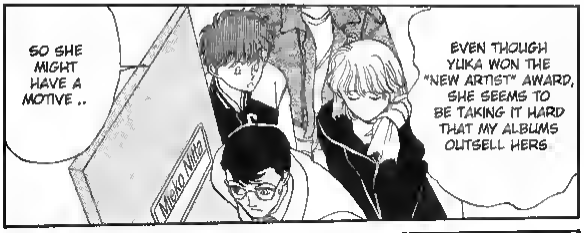
GOOD MORNING, MIEKO-CHAN!
WELL!
JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US
I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T TRUST SUCH THINGS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
EVEN IF I DO SAY SO AS SOMEONE WHO TOOK THE JOB.
SO WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU FOR THESE TWO DAYS

OXTV
GOOD MORNING!

GOOD MORNING!

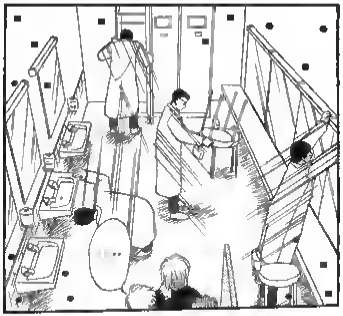
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE HARSH, MITSURU?
THIS GUY COULDN'T BLUFF A BLIND MAN.

SIGH
You don't have to be so nervous.
HASU-KAWA
YOUR HAND-SWINGING IS NOT IN SYNC WITH YOUR LEGS


SO SHE MIGHT HAVE A MOTIVE ..
Mieko Mita
EVEN THOUGH YUKA WON THE "NEW ARTIST" AWARD, SHE SEEMS TO BE TAKING IT HARD THAT MY ALBUMS OUTSELL HERS

OH, THAT'S TRUE
YUKA ISN'T AT OXTV VERY OFTEN, AND SHE CERTAINLY DOESN'T COME ON LOCATION.

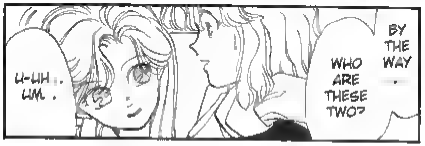
OKAY, IT'S CLEAN
MIEKO, GO AHEAD AND CHANGE
OKAY

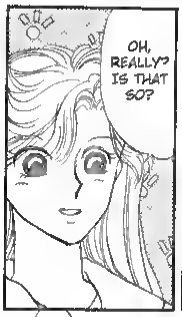


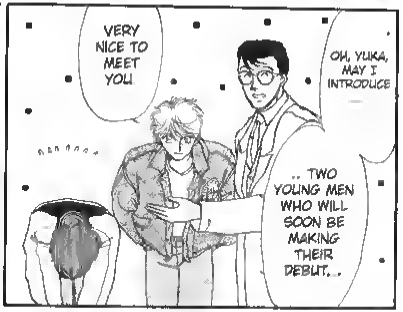
IT CERTAINLY LEAVES MY NERVES PRETTY FRAYED.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
DO YOU DO THAT ALL THE TIME?

MIEKO! I HEAR YOU'RE DOING A DRAMA! IT MUST BE SO TIRING!
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND YUKA, YOU'RE HERE DOING YOUR GREATEST HITS?

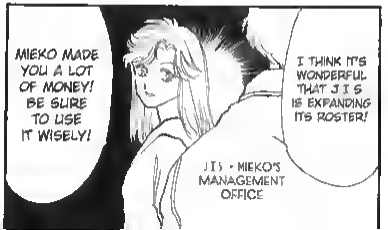
AH! GOOD MORNING, YUKA-CHAN!
The last thing!
WOW! IT'S YUKA FUJIMI!


U-UH.. UM..
WHO ARE THESE TWO?
BY THE WAY ..


OH, REALLY? IS THAT SO?


VERY NICE TO MEET YOU
OH, YUKA, MAY I INTRODUCE
.. TWO YOUNG MEN WHO WILL SOON BE MAKING THEIR DEBUT..

See you! Good luck!


MIEKO MADE YOU A LOT OF MONEY! BE SURE TO USE IT WISELY!
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL THAT J I S IS EXPANDING ITS ROSTER!
J I S - MIEKO'S MANAGEMENT OFFICE

IT'S THE SAME ALL OVER.
THIS IS PRETTY CHAOTIC.
THERE'S A SHADOW ON THAT BACK WALL!
LET'S GET A LIGHT ON IT, SHALL WE?
AH!
MIEKO IS PLAYING A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT WHO GETS HERSELF INVOLVED IN A POLICE CASE
OH, NO!
TODAY'S DRAMAS ARE MAINLY SUSPENSE STORIES OR ROMANTIC COMEDIES.
*TIN CONTAINING FOUNDATION
HUH? IT'S A NEW MAKE-UP GIRL? WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?
I'M SORRY!
KAZUMI, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
KOASH★

IF YOU PRESS ME, I MIGHT COME UP WITH A FEW NAMES
IT'S THAT KIND OF INDUSTRY.
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHO IT IS?
IF WE DID THAT, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD GET WRITTEN ABOUT IT
ISN'T THIS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE TALKING TO THE POLICE ABOUT?
THAT'S TRUE!
BUT AT LEAST YOU GUYS ARE HERE
HA HA HA
BUT IF THEY'RE PLANTING BOMBS, THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD DO TO HELP!
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS PRIVATELY.
THEN, LET'S GO.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
GRIN GRIN
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
KA CHIK
CUT! CUT!
Stage 11

AND THE ONE TALKING TO HIM IS KADOWAKI THE DIRECTOR.
OH AND OVER THERE IS KAZUMA MIZUSHIMA THE LEADING MAN STARRING OPPOSITE MIEKO
FRONT OFFICE PEOPLE, AND OTHER SPECIALISTS COMING AND GOING
PRODUCTION STAFF, CAMERA OPERATORS AND OTHER RELATED STAFF

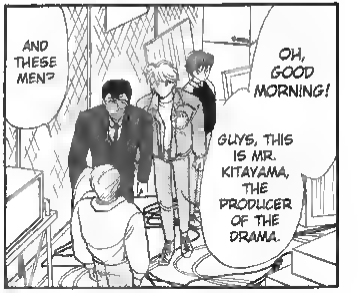
OH THANKS.
HERE.
GULP
?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIEKO?
YEAH... SLUMP
GOOD WORK!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM? A GOLDFISH?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU BROUGHT OUR OWN WATER TANK.
GOOD. IT'S OKAY

YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS NEVER STAY PUT!

KYOKO SUDDENLY UP AND QUIT.
SINCE THE END OF LAST MONTH.

REALLY? I NEVER NOTICED.

OH, I SEE.
NEW TALENT. THEY'LL BE MAKING THEIR DEBUT SOON.


AND THESE MEN?
OH, GOOD MORNING!
GUYS, THIS IS MR. KITAYAMA, THE PRODUCER OF THE DRAMA.

YEAH.
EVEN IF WE NARROW IT DOWN TO THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE WHEN MIEKO WAS TARGETED, THE NUMBER WOULD STILL BE HUGE
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE COMING IN AND OUT.

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION THEN GOOD LUCK

IT'S SHIHO TERASAWA.
SHIHO IS A SERIES REGULAR.
IT'S MY LUCKY DAY!
SEEING HER UP CLOSE, SHE'S A FIRST-CLASS GORGEOUS WOMAN
YEAH, SHE REALLY IS
AND LINED UP WITH KAZUMA LIKE THAT
IT COULD BE A PORTRAIT

I KNEW IT! I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
TH-THAT ISN'T TRUE!

IT COULD BE THAT SHIHO IS ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH KAZUMA, AND HATES MIEKO BECAUSE OF IT!
ARE YOU CONCEALING MURDEROUS FEELINGS ABOUT YOUR BROTHER FOR THE SAME REASON?

IF WE CAN. THAT'S WHAT I HOPE HAPPENS IN ANY EVENT.
IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY ACTUAL CLUES, WE'LL HAVE TO CATCH THE GUY IN THE ACT.
BUT GETTING BACK TO THE SUBJECT

FOR JUST THIS REASON
I'M JUST NOT MADE FOR THIS KIND OF WORK!

IT'S HARD ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO MY JOB NORMALLY
I DON'T SEE WHY I HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH ALL THIS

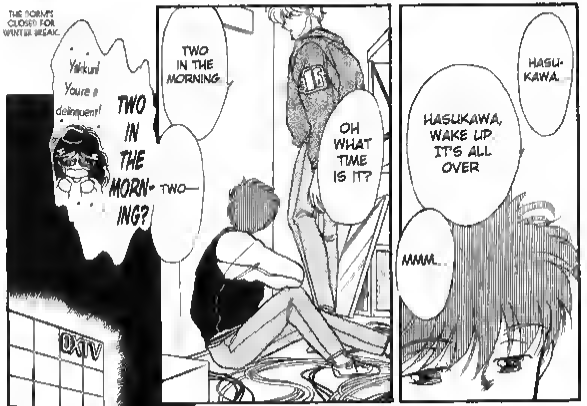
WHY ...
SIGH
...DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?

HO HO HO
OH!

IN ANY CASE, WHILE THE LIGHTS ARE ON YOU, EVERYONE WILL BE WATCHING. YOU HAVE GOOD MOTOR SKILLS AND REFLEXES.
ALL WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL OF IS WHEN SHE'S OFF-CAMERA

WELL, THE FIRST DAY ENDED WITHOUT A HITCH
YES. THE PERPE-TRATOR MIGHT HAVE BEEN THROWN OFF BY YOU TWO.
AND ONLY ONE DAY TO GO YOU CAN DO IT, MIEKO!
SLUMP
I-I'M SORRY.
I DON'T REMEMBER MY NEXT LINE—
ガビーン

ZZZZZZ...
THIS IS NO TIME FOR HYPNOSIS !!
EVEN IF EVERYONE WAS ALL DYNAMITE!!
WHAP
FIVE SECONDS UNTIL WE START!
THEIR DYNAMICS ARE DIFFERENT HERE!
YES!
4...
3...
2...
1...
ACTION!
WE GOT IT! NEXT SCENE!
CUT!!


THE SCRIPT'S CLOSER FOR WINTER BREAK.
Yahkun! Youre a delinquent!
TWO IN THE MORN-ING?
TWO IN THE MORNING.
TWO—
OH WHAT TIME IS IT?
HASUKAWA, WAKE UP. IT'S ALL OVER
HASU-KAWA.
MMM...

I CAN'T IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
THAT WAS A PRETTY CLOSE CALL
I MUST HAVE TERRIBLY OFFENDED SOMEBODY WITHOUT REALIZING IT
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE STARTED DOING THIS JOB!
THAT ISN'T TRUE!
I'M NOT MADE FOR IT!

WHAT HAPPENED?
MIEKO!!
IF THAT HAD HIT HER, THERE WOULD BE NO SAVING HER!
AH! SOMEBODY CUT THROUGH THE TAPE I USED TO SECURE THE LIGHT!
I'M SO SORRY!
WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE IF MIEKO HAD BEEN HIT?
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?!
MIEKO, CAN YOU WALK?
LET'S TAKE HER BACK TO HER DRESSING ROOM THEY WON'T BE FILMING FOR A WHILE
*Sorry doesn't cut it! Where's Mr. Kitamura! Mr. Kitamura!!

H-HE'S GOOD
LIKE ALWAYS.
...AND YOU'VE MADE FRIENDS IN THE PROCESS.
HO! THAT GIRL'S GOTTEN A LOT BETTER!
LET'S MOVE TO THE NEXT SET-UP!
CUT!
OKAY! WE GOT IT!
YEAH! WE MANAGED TO GET THROUGH THE WHOLE SERIES!
OXTV

THEY WERE ALL CROWDED IN FRONT OF THE CONCERT HALL! WE HAD TO PUSH THEM BACK—THEY WERE SO CHARGED UP!
THEY WERE ALL ENERGIZED FOR JUST ONE REASON! YOU!
LOOK AT HOW MANY MIEKO FANS THERE ARE OUT THERE! ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO YOUR CONCERT A FEW DAYS BACK...THEY WERE ALL GATHERED THERE FOR ONE REASON! JUST FOR YOU, MIEKO!
AND YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT MADE FOR THIS JOB? THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
I MEAN...
LOOK HOW MANY TIMES YOU CAME OUT WITHOUT A SCRATCH
BESIDES, I'D SAY YOUR LUCK IS PRETTY GOOD.
THE LOGIC'S JUST NOT RIGHT!
EHF
KACHI
YOU HAVE A GOOD OFFICE AND A NICE MANAGER...

IF HE'S GOING TO END IT, IT'S GOT TO BE TODAY.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE BAD GUY IS PROBABLY THINKING THE SAME THING WE ARE. THAT WHEN TODAY ENDS, IT'S ALL OVER.
THE FILMING ENDED TODAY, AND HE PROBABLY CAN'T WAIT UNTIL NEW YEAR'S...
IF HE REALLY WANTED HER DEAD, HE MUST BE PANICKING RIGHT NOW
VRROOOM
VRROOOM
AHH?!

THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU? THANKS!
I JUST WANT YOU GUYS TO REALIZE HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
YOU GET MIEKO BACK TO HER HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THEN I GUESS WE'LL FIND A TAXI AND GET OURSELVES HOME
AND THANKS TO YOU, MIEKO DID AN EVEN BETTER ACTING JOB THAN USUAL, MAKING FILMING GO MUCH MORE SMOOTHLY!
I WONDER
WE ENDED UP BEING NO HELP, THOUGH.
AND HE ALWAYS WANTED IT TO LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT. IT MEANS THE SHOOTING SCHEDULE WAS THE ONLY TIME HE COULD DO IT.
HE ONLY TARGETED HER DURING THE FILMING
OH! BEFORE THAT, WE'D BETTER CALL THE OFFICE
WAIT HERE. I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND.
HUH?
THE CULPRIT WAS PROBABLY SOMEONE CONNECTED WITH THE SHOW.

KRASSH!!
KICK
TMP
MIEKO! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? MIEKO!
IS THE CULPRIT STILL ALIVE?
FUMPH
AAH?!
HE'S ALIVE! HE WAS WEARING HIS SEATBELT!

FA
SH!
!
HA-YUPP!
SKREEEEEEEEE
WHAAA?!
HUH?

AT THE END OF AN ALLEY WAY RUNNING BESIDE STAGE 4 IS AN EMERGENCY EXIT STAIRCASE.
SINCE MIEKO GETS SICK IN ELEVATORS, SHE SOMETIMES USED THOSE STAIRS.
I HAVE ONE REGRET ABOUT THIS.
REGRET?
NO! I..
I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
MIEKO! YOU'VE KNOWN THIS ALL ALONG AND...
...WHEN I CAME BACK TO THE STAGE WITH A SHEET TO WRAP THE BODY IN...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IF YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T SEE IT, THEN..
..WHO WAS THAT PALLID GIRL I SAW WALKING AWAY FROM STAGE 4?!

KYOKO, THE MAKE-UP ARTIST, DIDN'T QUIT
MR. KITAYAMA!!
IT WAS ON THE EMPTY STAGE 4 THAT I MURDERED HER. THEN I TOOK HER TO A MOUNTAIN PASS, AND DUMPED HER BODY IN A VALLEY.
SHE'S DEAD.
I KILLED HER!
EHH?!
OR I WOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED IF MIEKO HADN'T SEEN THE BODY ON STAGE 4!
EVEN IF THEY FOUND HER BODY, I NEVER WORRIED THAT ANYONE WOULD SUSPECT ME
SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS GOING TO TELL ON ME, AND BEFORE I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING I HAD KILLED HER
OF COURSE, NOBODY KNEW KYOKO AND I WERE SEEING EACH OTHER

NEW YEAR PHOTOGRAPHS

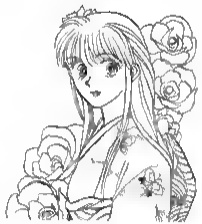
Yakkun! Your soba noodles are hot and ready!
BUT...
OKAY!
MITSURU I HAVE TO GO!
AND RIGHT AFTER THAT, BECAUSE OF ALL THE UPROAR, SHE COLLAPSED AGAIN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! NOBODY THINKS LESS OF MIEKO FOR IT
YEAH I GAVE HER THAT SPEECH WITHOUT THINKING OF THE CONSEQUENCES.
TELL THE AUDIENCE HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW!
BUT YOU LIVED THROUGH IT TO WIN THIS FABULOUS AWARD!
I WAS.
AND YOU FOUND YOURSELF INVOLVED IN A TERRIBLE MURDER CASE! I'LL BET YOU WERE FRIGHTENED!
MIEKO CHAN! CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE AWARD!
AND NEXT YEAR, I'LL TRY EVEN HARDER!
I'M REALLY VERY HAPPY!
YES
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU ALL!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

TARGET: IDOL: THE END

NEW YEAR
PHOTOGRAPHS

....
OKAY!
THE PROBLEM
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EAT FOUR BOILED VEGGIE OMOCHI RICE CAKES?
TH-TH-THREE!!
...THIS...
IS.
I FORMALLY WISH YOU ...
..A HAPPY NEW YEAR
IT'S SO GREAT TO BE IN A REAL HOME!
OH, I FORGOT
WHEN DID HE START WEARING KIMONOS?
OR IT WOULD BE IF HE WEREN'T HERE!!
HERE, HIRO-KUN!

NEW YEAR'S AT THE HASUKAWA RESIDENCE
IT'S NICE TO BE IN A REAL HOME!
MORNING BATH
GLIP
YAKKUN!
YEAH!
KA-PLIP
A GUY CAN GET IN THE BATH AND STAY FOR A WHILE.



Newlywed, newly bred, newly fed. ♡

WHOOO
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN FIRST-YEAR NEWLYWEDS ALL THIS TIME?!

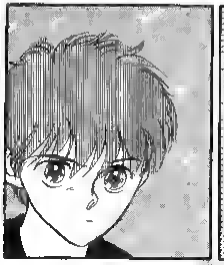
HE'S JUST FINE!

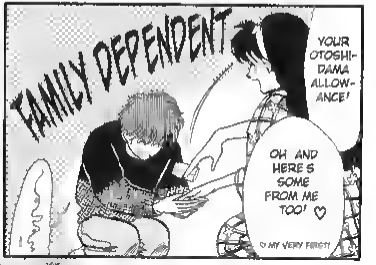
DO YOU THINK YAKKUN IS HAPPY?
I WAS WONDERING

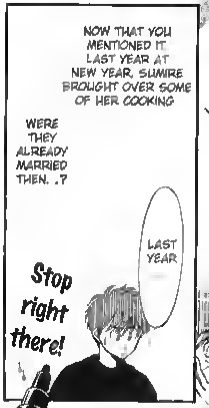
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
OH, NO JUST SIT AND RELAX

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT
YOU THINK SO?

FOR YEARS HE AND I HAVE SPENT NEW YEAR'S ALONE, JUST US TWO
I THINK HE LIKES IT WITH AN EXTRA PERSON AROUND.




FAMILY DEPENDENT
YOUR OTOSHI-DAMA ALLOW-ANCE!
OH AND HERE'S SOME FROM ME TOO! ♡
© MY VERY FIRST!


NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED IT LAST YEAR AT NEW YEAR, SUMIRE BROUGHT OVER SOME OF HER COOKING
WERE THEY ALREADY MARRIED THEN. .?
LAST YEAR
Stop right there!

TSK!

UMM
UHH

THEN
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
Everyone promised not to question this part!

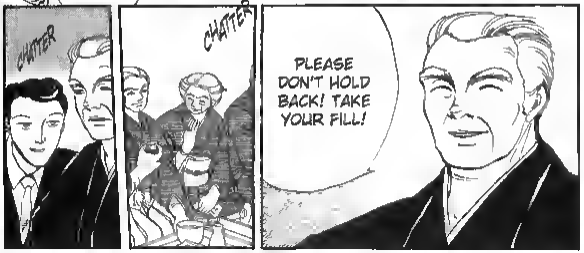
KA-CHUMP
I'M NOW GOING TO— WHEREVER!
DIDN'T YAKKLIN STEP OUT ALREADY?
NEW YEAR'S AT THE TEZUKA RESIDENCE.

LET'S NOT DECIDE THINGS LIKE THAT JUST YET
THERE MAY BE PRO-BLEMS
My poor little brother
I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE A GOOD MOTHER TO HIM!
I'LL WORK TO MAKE A BRIGHT, CHIPPER HOME! SOMETHING HE'LL WANT TO COME HOME TO!
IN SPIRIT! JUST IN SPIRIT! SO WE CAN BE SURE THAT YAKKLIN COMES HOME EVERY YEAR!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT FROM YOUR COLLEGE YEARS HAVE YOU, MISS KIMURA?
MAIDEN NAME
A-AND MAYBE WE CAN EXPAND THE FAMILY JUST A LITTLE..
DON'T SAY THAT!
HASU-KAWA-SEMPAI!

THAT'S NO WAY FOR AN ELDEST SON TO ACT!
HOWEVER, MASTER SHINOBU HAS BEEN A MODEL OF GOOD BEHAVIOR.
I'M SURE MR. TEZUKA IS SO RELIEVED
BUT SHINOBU'S SCHOOL
WHAT WAS IT? RYOKUTO ACADEMY?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
ONE OF MY EXECUTIVES GRADUATED FROM THERE A GOOD MAN
THERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING PEOPLE WHO HAVE GRADUATED FROM THERE
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT BEFORE
BUT THE HIGH SCHOOL HAS NO COLLEGE ATTACHED, AND IT HAS LOST A LOT OF ITS FORMER POPULARITY.
AND WITH THAT ONE IS FORCED TO WONDER WHAT KIND OF TEACHERS THEY GET THESE DAYS
OH, I AGREE!
IF YOU WANT A FUTURE, YOU MUST MAKE SUITABLY RANKED FRIENDS DURING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS
SSS
HO HO HO HO
WELL, IF HE TOOK HIS TESTS FAIRLY AND THAT SCHOOL WAS ALL HE COULD GET, THEN WE MUSTN'T COMPLAIN.

MASTER SHINOBU?
ARE YOU READY?
I'M READY.
THEN PLEASE GO TO THE MAIN ROOM.
EVERY-ONE AWAITS YOU
CLATTER
WHERE COULD MASTER AKIRA BE?
YOU KNOW HIM! HE'S NEVER HOME!

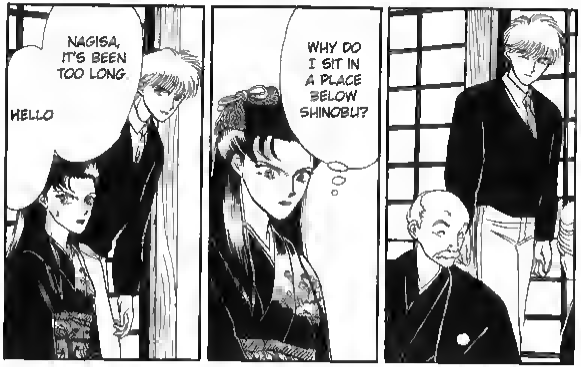
YOU HAVE MY HEARTFELT APOLOGIES
WE'VE KEPT YOU WAITING FAR TOO LONG!
AH! MR. TEZUKA!
WHAT ARE THOSE FLOWERS SUPPOSED TO BE, HUH?'
IS THAT A NEW FORMAL KIMONO?


CHATTER
CHATTER
PLEASE DON'T HOLD BACK! TAKE YOUR FILL!

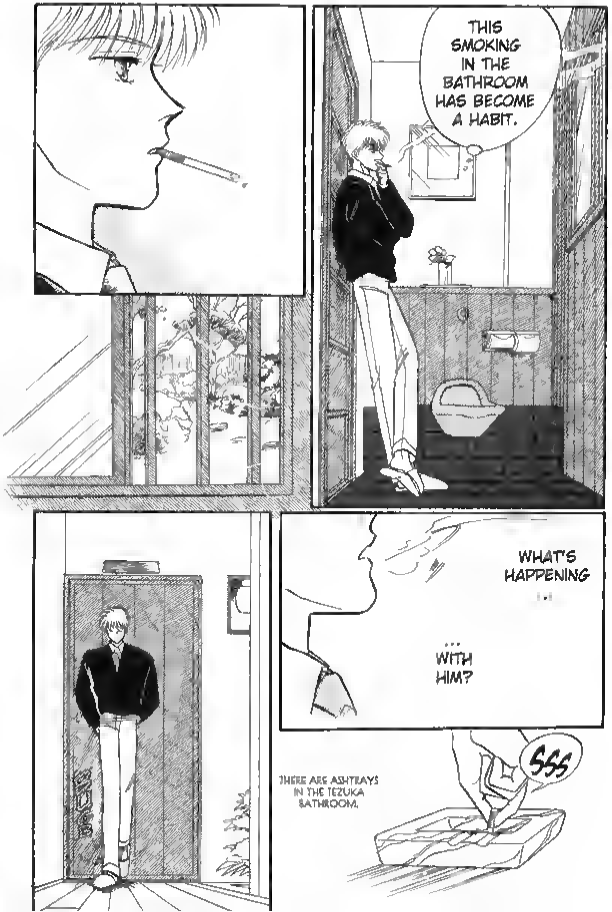
WA HA HA H
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT..

EXCUSE ME FOR BEING TARDY.

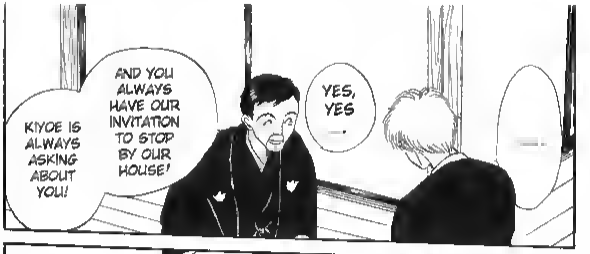
WELCOME BACK! COME IN
EXCUSE ME.
WHY, SHINOBU! WHAT A GENTLEMANLY GREETING
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

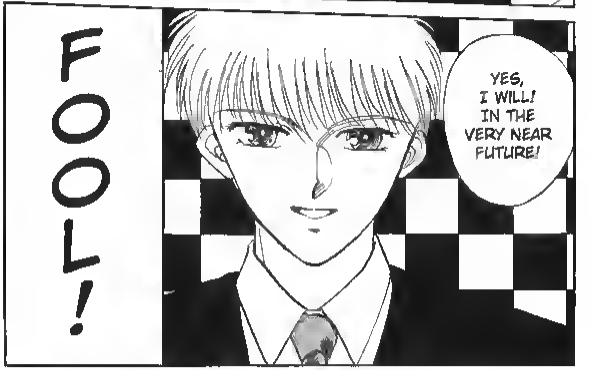

NAGISA, IT'S BEEN TOO LONG
HELLO
WHY DO I SIT IN A PLACE BELOW SHINOBU?

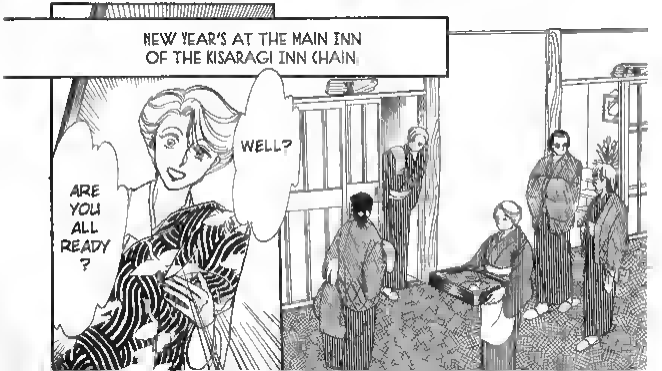
LONG TIME NO SEE, SHINOBU!
YO!
YOU REMEMBER HER, RIGHT?
TWO YEARS YOUR JUNIOR
MY DAUGHTER IS OFF AT A TOKYO SCHOOL TOO, YOU KNOW!
REALLY? REALLY?
HOW ARE THINGS GOING AT SCHOOL?
WELL THANK YOU
OH AND THIS...
YEAH, THAT'S HER.
YES
HER NAME'S KIYOE, CORRECT?
LET'S KEEP IT A SECRET
FROM YOUR FATHER
IT'S ALL RIGHT! TAKE IT!
BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT
IT'S ONLY A LITTLE, BUT PERHAPS IT WILL BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU


THIS SMOKING IN THE BATHROOM HAS BECOME A HABIT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING ...
...WITH HIM?
THERE ARE ASHTRAYS IN THE TEZUKA BATHROOM.
SSS

GRIN
GRIN
NOW, ISN'T THAT NICE, SHUN!
HOW BEAUTIFUL!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DEAR.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DEAR?
IT WILL DO FOR A YOUNG PERSON WHO CAN'T YET WEAR A FORMAL KIMONO WITH THE FAMILY CREST!
NOW WE'LL GO TO THE FORMAL ROOM AND PAY OUR RESPECTS.
BUT IT LOOKS FINE!
WE CAN'T HELP THAT CAN WE?
You look like Oshin.
I HAVE SLIGHT PROBLEMS WITH THE HAIR...
AND WHAT ABOUT REINA?
TAKE CARE!
YES, MOTHER.


KIYOE IS ALWAYS ASKING ABOUT YOU!
AND YOU ALWAYS HAVE OUR INVITATION TO STOP BY OUR HOUSE!
YES, YES


FOOL!
YES, I WILL! IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE!


NEW YEAR'S AT THE MAIN INN OF THE KISARAGI INN CHAIN.
WELL?
ARE YOU ALL READY ?

AND ALL OF MY FRIENDS ARE AT HOME HAVING FUN WITH THEIR FAMILIES!

WHEN VACATION IS OVER, YOU'RE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL, AREN'T YOU?

REINA!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT AGAIN?

THAT'S SO AWFUL!

JUST WHEN ALL THE BUSY TIMES ARE OVER, YOU'RE ALREADY GONE!

I *KNOW* ABOUT MOTHER!

WE CAN'T HELP IT BEING BUSY WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS ON VACATION!

REINA JUST WANTS TO PLAY WITH ONII-CHAMA!

LOOK HOW HARD MOTHER WORKS...

I WANT ONII-CHAMA HERE WITH ME!

REINA...

OH, RIGHT YOU ONLY STARTED WORKING HERE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

THAT'S THE ELDEST SON OF MADAM PRESIDENT?

THAT'S A GUY?

EH?!

HUH??

HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT MASTER SHUN IS A BRILLIANT STUDENT.

I'LL BET EVERYONE ELSE IS LAZING AROUND THEIR HOUSES.

SURE WOULD BE NICE!

STARE

SIGH

I'M EXHAUSTED!

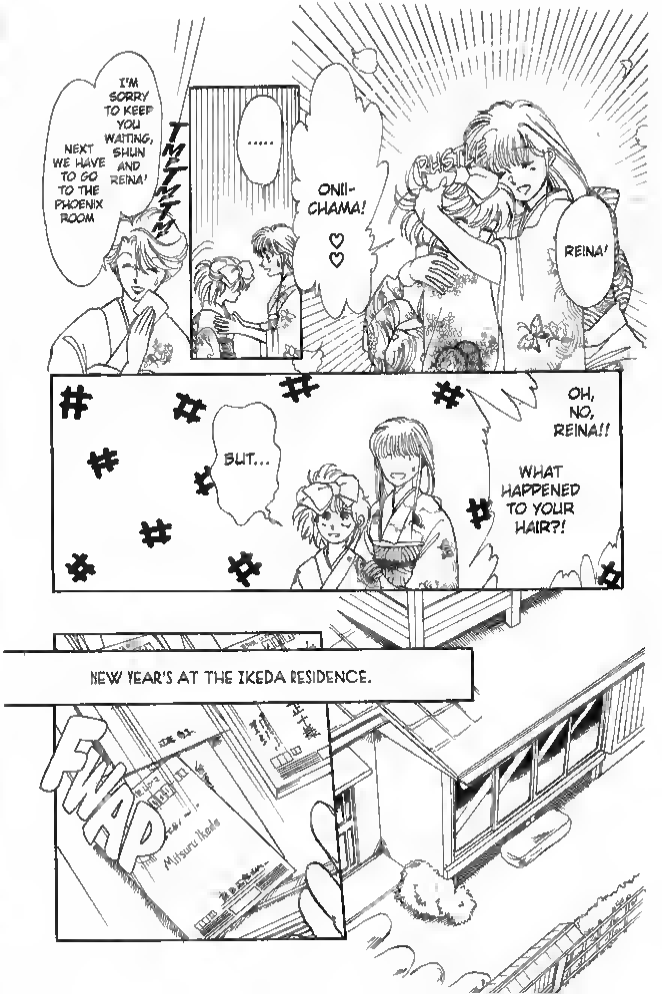
HM? WHAT?

ONII-CHAMA?

There things will be so much easier for me!

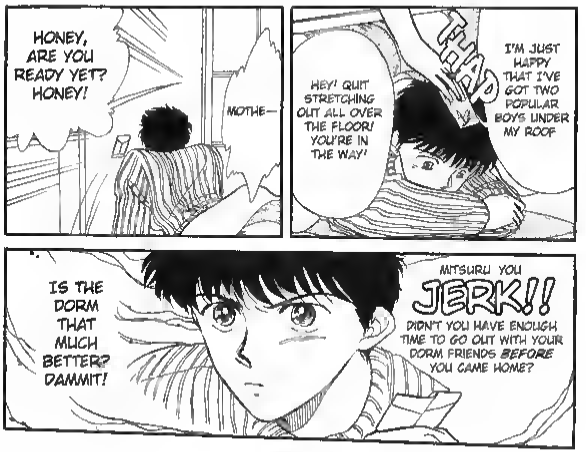
CAN'T YUI GROW UP A LITTLE QUICKER?

TRAITOR!
SHO!
ARE YOU STILL LYING AROUND?
KACHK
SHO!
THUMP
TMP TMP TMP
AH, HA!
I THINK HE'S STILL ASLEEP
THERE'S NO HELP FOR MY CHILDREN, IS THERE?
SURE FINE BUT
WHAT ABOUT MITSURU?
YOUR FATHER AND I ARE MAKING THE ROUNDS OF NEW YEAR'S CALLS HOLD THE FORT HERE, OKAY?


I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SHUN AND REINA!
NEXT WE HAVE TO GO TO THE PHOENIX ROOM
TMTMTM
.....
ONII-CHAMA!
REINA!
OH, NO, REINA!!
BUT...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?!
NEW YEAR'S AT THE IKEDA RESIDENCE.
FWAP

EH?!!!
BUT WHY? YOU JUST GOT HERE THIS MORNING!
I'M GOING OUT, TOO.
I PROMISED A KOHAI FROM MY DORM THAT I'D TAKE HIM TO THE STATUE OF KANNON
I'M NOT GOING TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE THIS TIME, SO DON'T WORRY!
I THREW UP, SO I'M OKAY.
LISTEN, YOU.
IS THE ALCOHOL OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM?
AND YOU, SHO ...
IF YOU WANT TO COME ALONG, THEN COME ALONG!
I AM A SEMPAI. I CAN'T HELP IT, CAN I?
OH, HO! WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING LIKE A SEMPAI FOR?

WHO KNOWS?
WHAT'S HE SO SULKY FOR?
NAW! I'M GONNA WAIT UNTIL IT ISN'T SO CROWDED.
....
YES!
FWAP
THIS ENDS WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL
THEN ...
OH! WAIT A MOMENT!
SIGHooo
THE TIMES WHEN HE COMES HOME IT'D BE NICE IF HE STAYED HOME ONCE IN A WHILE
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? HAS THAT CHILD EVER STAYED AT HOME DURING NEW YEAR'S?
SEE YOU LATER!
TMP TMP


HONEY, ARE YOU READY YET? HONEY!
MOTHE—
HEY! QUIT STRETCHING OUT ALL OVER THE FLOOR! YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
THAP
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT I'VE GOT TWO POPULAR BOYS UNDER MY ROOF
IS THE DORM THAT MUCH BETTER? DAMMIT!
MITSURU YOU JERK!!
DIDN'T YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GO OUT WITH YOUR DORM FRIENDS BEFORE YOU CAME HOME?
Should I go out? To a temple or...anywhere?
Oh, who cares? Mitsuru probably hates me anyway!
.....
HASUKAWA

CHAPTER 7
HUH? YOU LIVE IN TOKYO, BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE KANNON SHRINE?
I DON'T HAVE ANY SHRINES NEAR ME. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
YOU'RE HERE EARLY
HOME WAS A LITTLE UNCOM-FORTABLE
ZYOOOOM
IT'S OKAY!
WE CAN EACH THROW IN ENOUGH FOR TWO
HUH? I HAVE TO DO IT TOO?
WHERE IN SHIZUOKA DID HIS FAMILY LIVE AGAIN?
AND I DON'T THINK THAT SHINOBU BOTHERS TO GO
I WONDER WHAT TEMPLES OR SHRINES THEY GO TO IN SHIZUOKA?
LET'S GO
WE'RE DONE HERE, RIGHT?
MAYBE FOR THESE TWO TO BREAK UP IN SUCH A WAY THAT WON'T MAKE SUMIRE CRY
WHAT'LL I WISH FOR?

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

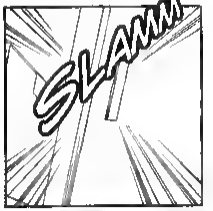
NEW YEAR PHOTOGRAPHS: THE END

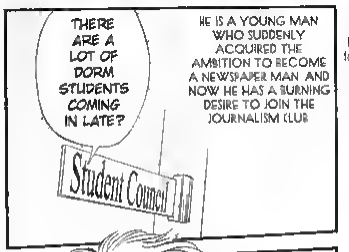
NOBLESSE OBLIGE

HOWEVER, THIS COUNCIL HAS ONE DIFFERENCE FROM THEIR FORBEARERS...
THEY TOOK THE SCHOOL FAIR, WHICH, ON AN AVERAGE YEAR, OPERATES IN THE RED, AND RAN IT INTO THE BLACK. AND THAT SUCCESS IS A COMMENDABLE FEAT THAT DESERVES PRAISE
MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL WORSHIP THE GROUND HE WALKS ON, AND THOSE WHO DON'T HE'S MADE CONCILIATORY GESTURES TO GET THEM ON HIS SIDE
AND RECENTLY RUMORS HAVE SURFACED THAT HE HAS USED HIS POSITION TO STUFF HIS OWN POCKETS WITH ILL-GOTTEN GAI—
IT IS LABORING UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP OF ONE SHINOBU TEZUKA, STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT
THIS, MR. FUSE...
...IS WHAT YOU ARE ORDERED TO DO.
GULP
IF THOSE RUMORS ARE TRUE OR FALSE ...
...WE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW DIRECTLY FROM THE COUNCIL!
NOW...

IN OUR RYOKUTO ACADEMY...
LATER!
SEE YOU TOMORROW
THERE HAVE BEEN MANY HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT STUDENT COUNCILS!
...ESTABLISHED MOST OF THE TRADITIONS AND LEGENDS THE SCHOOL HOLDS DEAR TODAY!
THE REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT COUNCIL OF THE '60S
...WAS A MAGNIFICENT COUNCIL THAT MADE OUR SCHOOL FAMOUS IN THE LATE '20S!
THE FIRST STUDENT COUNCIL AT THE SCHOOL'S OPENING
CERTAINLY MEN OF TALENT
THEY ARE ...
...ONCE AGAIN, AT THIS LATE DATE, WE HAVE A STUDENT COUNCIL!
AND...

MR PRESIDENT...


SLAMM

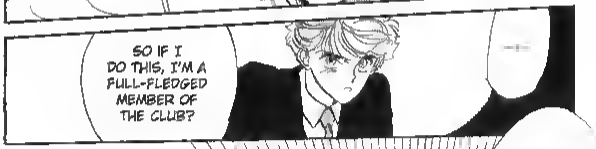

THERE ARE A LOT OF DORM STUDENTS COMING IN LATE?
HE IS A YOUNG MAN WHO SUDDENLY ACQUIRED THE AMBITION TO BECOME A NEWSPAPER MAN AND NOW HE HAS A BURNING DESIRE TO JOIN THE JOURNALISM CLUB
Student Council

HIS NAME IS NAOSHI FUSE 16 YEARS OLD RYOKUTO ACADEMY CLASS 1-B
ONE HAS FINALLY COME!
A MOUSE WHO WILL TAKE THE JOB OF BELLING THE CAT!
MM.
ALL RIGHT!
I'M GONNA NAIL THIS!

YES. IT WAS IN A REPORT FROM THE ETHICS COMMITTEE.
THEY SAY NO ONE'S RESPONDED TO THEIR CONSTANT WARNINGS, AND THAT THEY'D LIKE US TO GIVE THE HEAD RESIDENT A SEVERE REBUKE.

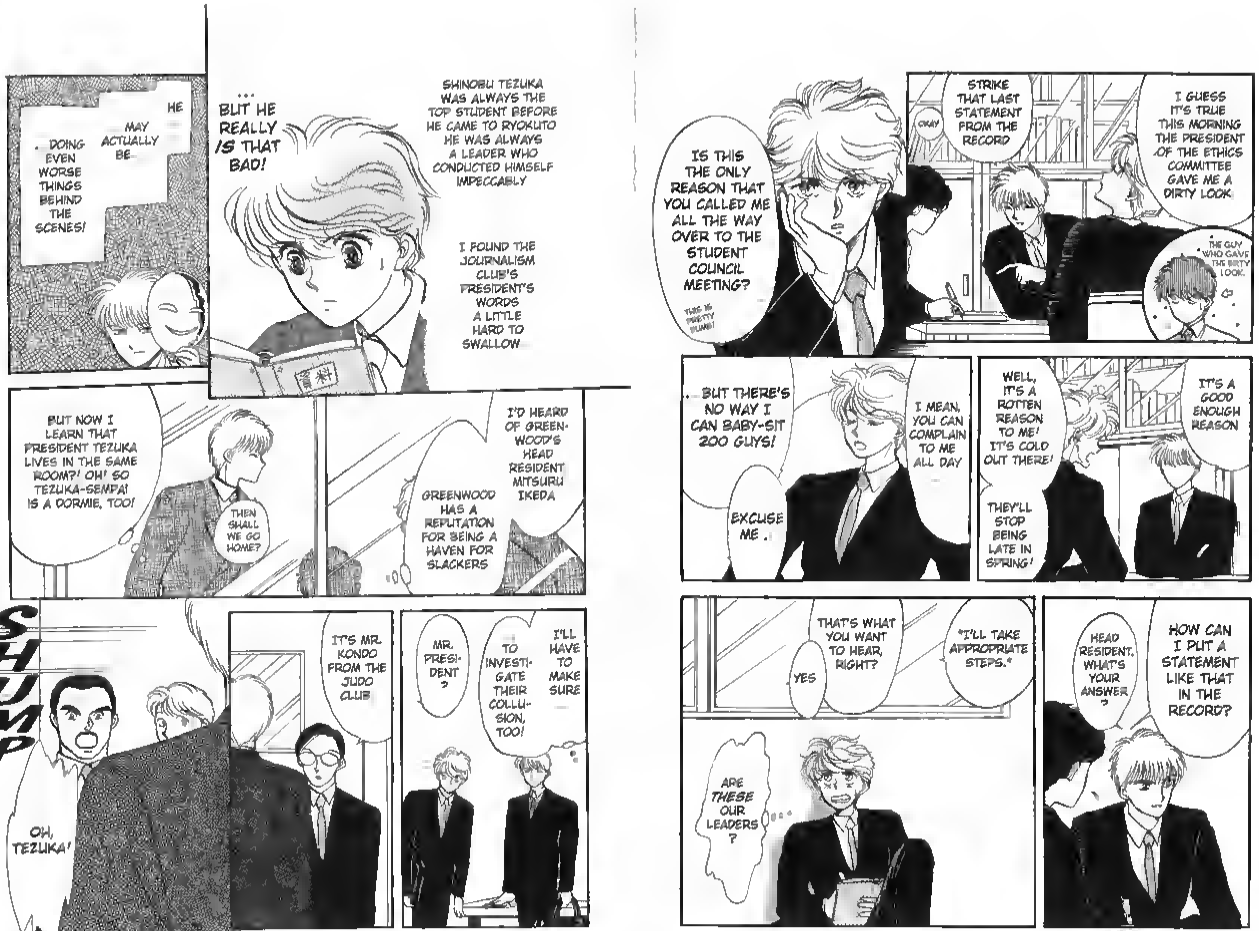
USE YOUR PEN TO DEFEAT HIM IN THE COURT OF STUDENT OPINION!
TAKE THAT TWO-BIT MONARCH AND DRAG HIS TRUE FORM INTO THE RAYS OF GLORIOUS SUNLIGHT!
THAT IS YOUR TEST IN ORDER TO ENTER THE JOURNALISM CLUB!!
EXPOSE THE EVIL OF STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHINOBU TEZUKA!!

WELL?
CAN YOU DO THIS?
HOWEVER, YOU ARE NOT YET A JOURNALISM CLUB MEMBER. SO WHILE YOU GATHER YOUR DATA, YOU MUST NEVER USE THE NAME OF THE CLUB!


SO IF I DO THIS, I'M A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE CLUB?

I'LL MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS AND GET YOU AN EXCLUSIVE SCOOP!!

I UNDERSTAND! I'LL DO IT!!
SKRRT


SHINOBU TEZUKA WAS ALWAYS THE TOP STUDENT BEFORE HE CAME TO RYOKUTO HE WAS ALWAYS A LEADER WHO CONDUCTED HIMSELF IMPECCABLY
I FOUND THE JOURNALISM CLUB'S PRESIDENT'S WORDS A LITTLE HARD TO SWALLOW
... BUT HE REALLY IS THAT BAD!
HE MAY ACTUALLY BE... DOING EVEN WORSE THINGS BEHIND THE SCENES!
I'D HEARD OF GREENWOOD'S HEAD RESIDENT MITSURU IKEDA
GREENWOOD HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING A HAVEN FOR SLACKERS
BUT NOW I LEARN THAT PRESIDENT TEZUKA LIVES IN THE SAME ROOM?! OH! SO TEZUKA-SEMPAI IS A DORMIE, TOO!
THEN SHALL WE GO HOME?
SHUMP
OH, TEZUKA!
IT'S MR. KONDO FROM THE JUDO CLUB
MR. PRESIDENT?
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO INVESTIGATE THEIR COLLUSION, TOO!
IS THIS THE ONLY REASON THAT YOU CALLED ME ALL THE WAY OVER TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING?
THIS IS PRETTY RUDE!
OKAY
STRIKE THAT LAST STATEMENT FROM THE RECORD
I GUESS IT'S TRUE THIS MORNING THE PRESIDENT OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE GAVE ME A DIRTY LOOK.
THE GUY WHO GAVE THE DIRTY LOOK
...BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BABY-SIT 200 GUYS!
EXCUSE ME.
I MEAN, YOU CAN COMPLAIN TO ME ALL DAY
WELL, IT'S A ROTTEN REASON TO ME! IT'S COLD OUT THERE!
THEY'LL STOP BEING LATE IN SPRING!
IT'S A GOOD ENOUGH REASON
ARE THESE OUR LEADERS?
YES
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR, RIGHT?
"I'LL TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS."
HEAD RESIDENT, WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
HOW CAN I PUT A STATEMENT LIKE THAT IN THE RECORD?

BUT...
DURING THAT MATCH LAST YEAR, YOU..
NO
NOTHING
HEY
KONDO
LET'S GO HOME
WHO ARE YOU?
UM... EXCUSE ME A SECOND.
GO AHEAD, KONDO! JUST SAY IT!
...IN THAT MATCH LAST YEAR, WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT YOU JUST SAID.

WE CAN'T RUN A JUDO CLUB ON THE BUDGET YOU'VE GIVEN US! WE DEMAND AT LEAST TWICE THAT
YEAH, AND IT'LL BE A BUNCH MORE TIMES UNTIL YOU AGREE!
THIS IS THE FIFTH TIME KONDO
BUT I GUESS I CAN CHANGE THE WORDING OF MY REPLY.
COME AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE, THE ANSWER WILL BE THE SAME
IF YOU WANT MORE MONEY, THEN WIN!!

IS IT POSSIBLE
SO HE CAN USE THE SURPLUS BUDGET TO INCREASE HIS OWN REPUTATION?
HE WANTS THE JUDO CLUB TO FAIL.
BUT JUDGING FROM THEIR TALK, PRESIDENT TEZUKA MADE THEM LOSE!
INCLUDING THE LESSER GIANT THE JUDO CLUB.
I GET IT. HE CUT THE BUDGET OF BADLY RUN CLUBS OR CLUBS WHOSE MEMBERS GET BAD GRADES.
WITH ITS SUCCESS, HIS REPUTATION AS PRESIDENT
JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS
NOT NOW THAT I'VE BEGUN TO GATHER THE EVIDENCE!
I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT!
HUH
I THINK IT'S AWFUL FOR THE POWERFUL STUDENT COUNCIL TO PICK ON THE WEAK CLUBS!
YOU SAY THAT SOME GUY IS GOING EVERYWHERE ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT SHINOBU?
HUH? HE ASKED YOU GUYS TOO?
ME TOO!
YEAH DON'T WORRY. I ONLY TOLD THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM.
I'M SORRY!!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH CLUB PRESIDENT KONDO?
B-BUT, YOU JUST
NOTHING IT'S ALL IN THE PAST
WHAT DID PRESIDENT TEZUKA DO...?
...I WON'T LET IT DEFEAT ME!!
BUT ...
PANT PANT PANT
THAT WAS SCARY!
FOR EXAMPLE, HE RAISED THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL FAIR 30% OVER LAST YEAR'S BUDGET
PRESIDENT TEZUKA'S BUDGET PROPOSALS CUT OFF FUNDING FOR UNPROFITABLE VENTURES AND MOVED THE MONEY TO MORE PROFITABLE POPULAR ATTRACTIONS
THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD!
I'M GOING TO BE A JOURNALIST WHO SEEKS THE TRUTH REGARDLESS OF THE DANGER!!

He can do anything but will only do it for a price! Just like a god!
SHINOBU-SEMPAI? THE MAN IS LIKE A GOD TO ME!!
TAKE MY ADVICE AND STAY AWAY, FAR AWAY FROM THIS CASE!
DO YOU HEAR? I'M SAYING IT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE!!
Comics Club
4,000 yen!
The sad news are a bit old, though.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
I WAS JUST GATHERING A LITTLE INFORMATION, BUT...
YES!
IF ALL THIS IS TRUE, THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE HOT EXPOSE!!
HE REALLY IS A DEVIL WITH AN ANGEL'S FACE!
I NEVER BELIEVED THERE COULD BE A PERSON WITH THIS MANY BAD RUMORS ABOUT HIM!

INTERESTING
HUH? OH, THAT'S FUSE
HE'S IN MY CLASS
YOU'RE PROUD OF IT?
SO YOU'RE PREPARED FOR IT
I'M NOT PROUD OF IT. BUT THERE ARE QUITE A FEW SCOUNDRELS IN MY FAMILY
SO I'M USED TO THIS KIND OF CASE
RACIAL MEMORY
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE JOURNALISM CLUB
JOURNALISM CLUB?
WE HAVE ONE OF THOSE?
ARE YOU SURE HE WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THE NEWS COMMITTEE?
THERE WERE TWO MEMBERS WHO WERE TRYING TO KEEP THE CLUB ALIVE
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT...
TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, THE JOURNALISM CLUB LOST ITS READERSHIP AS IT DESCENDED INTO A RADICAL BIAS, AND IT FINALLY HAD TO SHUT DOWN.

YES, SIR!
SIT!!
W—
WAIT A MINUTE!
I'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF INFORMATION...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE ONE SCRAP OF EVIDENCE
GOOD! NOBODY'S HERE.
Student Council
KNOCK KNOCK
SHUFFLE
HMM.
ONCE I GET PROOF...
...THEN I'LL DO A ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW!
AH! UM... I...
MY NAME IS FUSE FROM CLASS 1-B
THEN YOU'RE
FUSE?
CAN I HELP YOU?

SHF...
WHY NOT?
UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AT THE MOMENT.
TEZUKA!
I HAVE A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT.
SHMPH
YOU WANTED SOMETHING?
YES!
THANK YOU FOR COMING DESPITE OUR RUDE DEMAND.
OH, THAT
...WITH AN EXCESSIVELY INSULTING ANSWER!
RESPONDED TO THE CAPTAIN OF OUR CLUB'S REQUEST FOR FUNDS.
THE OTHER DAY, YOU...

THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN USING MONEY FROM THE STUDENT BODY BUDGET ON HIMSELF.
THAT THERE'S A LOT OF GAMBLING GOING ON, AND THE CHIEF BOOKIE IS THE PRESIDENT!
RECENTLY I'VE HEARD ALL SORTS OF RUMORS
WHAT QUESTIONS?
AS A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT BODY, I HAVE QUESTIONS FOR THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT!
EH?! HOW DID YOU KNO—
ARE YOU IN THE JOURNALISM CLUB?
DO YOU INTEND TO CONFIRM OR DENY THESE RUMORS IN THE FUTURE?
DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER TO THESE RUMORS? AND WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THE FACT THAT RUMORS ARE SPREAD ABOUT YOU?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?
I SEE
I'M NOT I'M NOT A MEMBER YET.
ONCE I WRITE THIS EXPOSE, THEY'LL ALLOW ME IN THE CLUB!
JUST TELL THE TRUTH
UH I MEAN... NO, I'M NOT!

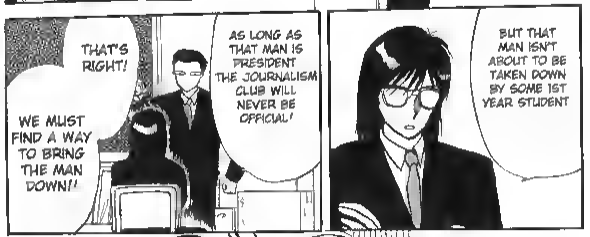
B-BUT...
I CAN TAKE IT!
I WAS ALL PREPARED FOR IT! I ALREADY FILLED OUT MY RESIGNATION LETTER FROM THE CLUB!
IT WON'T GO WELL FOR YOU...
...OR FOR THE JUDO CLUB
...I CAN GET MY SCOOP STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH!!
GRA
I WON'T BREAK ANY OF YOUR BONES...
..THAT IS, IF YOU REMEMBER THE PROPER WAY TO FALL LIKE THEY TAUGHT YOU GUYS IN GYM CLASS!

OUTTA THE WAY, OR YOU'LL GET HURT!
WE UNDERSTAND THAT, AND WE'LL SAY NOTHING MORE ON THE SUBJECT.
IN THE SAME CLASS
E-
HOW-EVER
BUB!
YOU HAVE FIVE MEN IN THE JUDO CLUB
YOU SHOULD HAVE BETTER RESULTS THAN THE NO WINS AND FIVE LOSSES FROM LAST YEAR
YOU CAN TALK ALL YOU WANT, BUT I CAN'T CHANGE MY ANSWER.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I ASK, THE CAPTAIN WON'T SAY.
HE STAYS COMPLETELY TIGHT-LIPPED ON THE SUBJECT.
SHLIP
THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO KNOW!
THERE WAS A MATCH IN WHICH YOU WERE INVOLVED, WASN'T THERE?
WHAT'LL I DO?
CHANG-CHANG
THERE ARE A LOT OF GUYS WHO'D LIKE THE CHANCE TO TRY TO PUT YOU TO THE MAT!

...IS BECAUSE IF TEZUKA HAD PARTICIPATED, WE'D HAVE WON!!
THE WHOLE REASON I BLAME TEZUKA...
YOU GUYS WENT OUT ON YOUR OWN?!
HUH?
I BEGGED HIM TO JOIN THE CLUB, ONLY TEMPORARILY, AND PARTICIPATE! BUT HE REFUSED!!
WHAT THE HECK?
We're sorry, Captain! We're sorry!
That the only way I could win was to rely on an outsider!
HOW COULD I BRING MYSELF TO ADMIT THAT TO YOU?!
Y-YES, SIR?!
FUSE?

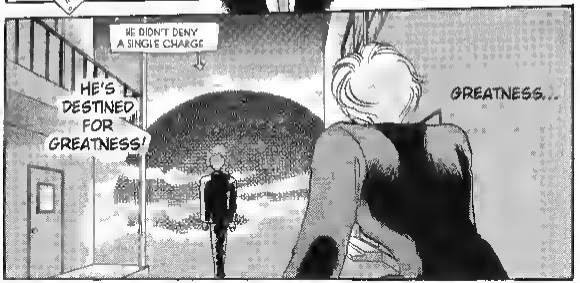
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
EVEN IF HE LET HIS GUARD DOWN...
STRAIGHT-LINE JUDO THROW
ZWOOOM
COOL!!
TAI-OTOSHI! (BODY THROW)
TAI—
AAH! CAPTAIN!
I WAS TOO LATE!

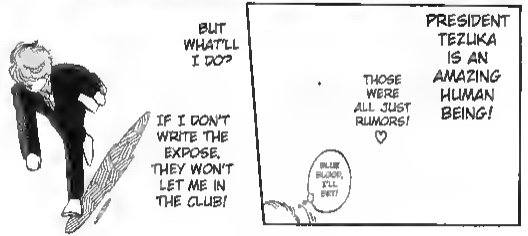
YOU SENT HIM ON AN ASSIGNMENT WITH NO EVIDENCE MAYBE HE GOT CAUGHT
THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
I WONDER WHAT THAT 1ST YEAR KID IS DOING?
BUT JOURNALISM SHOULDN'T ONLY BE ABOUT REPORTING THE BAD THINGS, RIGHT?
THE CLUB PRESIDENT IS SURE TO UNDERSTAND!


THAT'S RIGHT!
WE MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING THE MAN DOWN!!
AS LONG AS THAT MAN IS PRESIDENT THE JOURNALISM CLUB WILL NEVER BE OFFICIAL!
BUT THAT MAN ISN'T ABOUT TO BE TAKEN DOWN BY SOME 1ST YEAR STUDENT

THESE . .
THESE GUYS ARE DIRTY!!
TMP
BONG!!
WE'LL RECALL HIM AND PUT IN OUR STOOGE!
THEN WE'LL REVIVE THE JOURNALISM CLUB. .
. . AND WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO PUBLISH THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AGAIN!
KLUNK

WHOOSH
IF ANYONE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY, THEY CAN COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM
TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, HOW ABOUT WRITING THIS . .
I'LL HEAR THEM OUT ANYTIME THEY WANT!!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF INSULTS OR SLANDER!
MEANINGLESS MONOLOGUE
I ADMIT THAT I DO THINGS THAT SEEM HIGH-HANDED OR THOUGHTLESS OF OTHERS' FEELINGS
BUT THE THINGS I AM DOING ARE THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE.
THINGS I HAVE DONE MAY CAUSE PEOPLE TO HOLD GRUDGES AND THERE ARE THINGS I REGRET.


HE DIDN'T DENY A SINGLE CHARGE
HE'S DESTINED FOR GREATNESS!
GREATNESS...


BUT WHAT'LL I DO?
IF I DON'T WRITE THE EXPOSE, THEY WON'T LET ME IN THE CLUB!
PRESIDENT TEZUKA IS AN AMAZING HUMAN BEING!
THOSE WERE ALL JUST RUMORS! ♡
BLUB BLUBB, I'LL DIE!!

LOVE, YOUTH AND US

TEZUKA IS SUCH A GREAT MAN!
I'M ASHAMED THAT I CONSIDERED HELPING THEM EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 1ST YEAR STUDENT AND THE JOURNALISM CLUB?
YOU COULD PROBABLY PLAY THE PIANO WITH YOUR TOES!
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GO FULL OUT IN A MATCH AND STAY WITHIN THE RULES
I NEVER KNEW YOU DID JUDO!
WHY DIDN'T YOU COMPETE IN THE MATCH?
WHY DOES HE SAY THAT WITH SUCH PRIDE?!

AS AN ANSWER TO THAT..

SHAKE, BOY!
PLEASE MAKE ME YOUR DISCIPLE!
AND FOUND HIMSELF RUNNING FULL BORE AWAY FROM THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!
AND YOUNG RUSE FOUND HIMSELF CONVERTED
THE SELF APPOINTED JOURNALISM CLUB WENT UNDERGROUND
SEMPAI !!

NOBLESSE OBLIGE. THE END

LOVE, YOUTH AND US

SENSEI! PLEASE CONDUCT A LECTURE ON EFFECTIVENESS BEFORE THE DAY!
BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T AFFECTED BY THAT HANDICAP...
YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE THE CHAL-LENGE!
Hey, what's your problem, Hasukawa?
IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR. WHY DOES EVERYBODY GET SO WORKED UP?
AWW YOU JUST INHERITED GOOD LOOKS
MY SUCCESS IS THE RESULT OF LONG YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND HARD WORK
ALREADY TOOK HIS BATH...
What's up?
THIS YEAR, I WANT ONE! JUST ONE!
THWAK
YOU DON'T GET "ONE" OR "TWO," YOU BRAGGART!
ALL I'M SAYING IS ONE OR TWO GIFTS OF CHOCOLATES ISN'T—
COME ON, PEOPLE!

HOW ABOUT HIM?
NO WAY! NO WAY!
ONE...
NO, MAYBE TWO...
ME? NOT A PRAYER
WAITING IN LINE FOR THE BATH
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
KILLING TIME
JUST GUESSING HOW MANY GIFTS PEOPLE WILL GET.
...IT'S GETTING SO CLOSE TO THAT DAY
NO, NOTHING. IT'S JUST...
WAITING IN LINE TOO
WILL YOU GUYS GIVE IT UP ALREADY?!
IT JUST WON'T HAPPEN IN AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL!
A FUTILE WASTE OF TIME
BA-KICK
IF WE PLAY OUR CARDS WRONG, WE COULD GO A WHOLE WEEK WITHOUT EVER SEEING A GIRL.
BUT...
THEY'RE WAITING IN LINE TOO
AND WE'RE IN A BOYS' DORM.

KAWAZU
LIQU
LET'S GO IN FOR A SECOND.
SO THIS IS WHERE FURUSAWA WORKS, HUH?
YEAH ...
WELCOME! COME IN!
YOU'RE FRIENDS OF FURU-SAWA'S?
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
OH! SEMPAI!

THE BATH IS REALLY CROWDED.
OH I'LL TAKE MINE LATER THEN
A 15-MINUTE WAIT.
JUST GETTING BACK FROM WORK?
YEAH
OH! FURU-SAWA!
DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?
THIS IS...
I'VE ALWAYS GONE TO BOYS' SCHOOLS.
HE SAYS SO HIMSELF. EVERYONE TAKE NOTE
BY THE WAY, I HEARD COMMENTS FROM LAST YEAR... SHINOBU, WHY DIDN'T YOU GET AS MANY AS MITSURU?
ISN'T THAT FURUSAWA'S BIKE?
OH! YOU'RE RIGHT!
AH! LOOK OVER THERE!
...A STORY ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR...

RIGHT! IT ISN'T TOO LATE FOR ME! IF HE CAN GET A GIRL, SO CAN I!!
IT'S TOO LATE.
UHRNNN
SO THAT'S IT! A GUY CAN USE A MOTOR-CYCLE!
I THOUGHT
THAT HE WAS MARRIED TO HIS BIKE
HIS BEHAVIOR DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT FOR IT.
YOU'RE LOOKING LOVELY, AS USUAL.
OH. WELCOME BACK, YUKO
I'M HOME.
...
YOU'VE GROWN UP.. SO.. MUCH ..
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! BUT YOU YUKO
HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING AGAIN? AUNTIE'S GOING TO SCOLD YOU AGAIN!
UNCLE, DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!

Here, have this on the house! Tra, la!
He's such a help!
I must tell you that Furusawa is such a good worker!
Oh really? Really?
WHAT? FURU-SAWA'S FRIENDS?
THEY'RE KOHAI FROM THE DORM
YOU'VE MET FURUSAWA'S WOMAN!
WHAT ?!
HER NAME S YUKO SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE LIQUOR STORE OWNER, AND SHE S A 2ND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!
YES, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE IS!!
SHE WORKS AT HIS SHOP BUT NOBODY EVER SAID—
ZAP
YOU HAVE A DARK SIDE DON'T YOU?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THOSE BIG COW EYES SHE MADE AT HIM WHEN SHE SMILED!
SHE DEFINITELY HAS SOMETHING IN MIND REGARDING HIM!

DON'T MIND ME! I REALLY DON'T...
OH, NO! THAT ISN'T WHY I TALKED ABOUT IT!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE?
EH?!
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?
REALLY, ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE
UM...
ALL RIGHT!
THEN I'D LIKE A RIDE ON THE BACK OF THE FURUGAWA MOTORCYCLE!
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A LONG RIDE...
I JUST ALWAYS WANTED SEE HOW IT FELT

YOU KNOW WHAT'S-IT'S-NAME DAY IS COMING UP!
YOU GIVING ANY GIFTS?
WELL? DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SOMEONE?
WELCOME BACK
IT'S BECAUSE FEBRUARY 14TH IS MY BIRTHDAY
YOU MEAN CHOCOLATE, RIGHT?
I HAVE NEVER GIVEN CHOCOLATE TO ANYONE IN MY LIFE!
THAT ISN'T IT.
JUST BECAUSE YOU NEVER HAD ANYONE TO GIVE IT TO! AND IT'S TOO DAMN BAD!
THAT MEANS I SHOULD GIVE YOU SOMETHING, HUH?
IT JUST NEVER SEEMED RIGHT TO GIVE PRESENTS ON MY OWN BIRTHDAY!

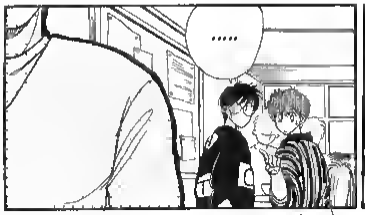
SHE WAS A TRANSFER STUDENT.
SHE HAD A FAIR COMPLEXION AND LONG HAIR.
I WAS HEARING ABOUT SHUN'S GIRLFRIEND IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WHAT?
HATE
HATE
ONLY ONE GIRL IS ALLOWED TO RIDE
WE WENT OUT ON PLENTY OF DATES
I MEAN, WHO WOULDN'T THINK WE WERE A COUPLE? BUT ONE DAY..
FAIR COMPLEXION AND LONG HAIR
I WAS THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE SO I HAD TO GUIDE HER AROUND THE SCHOOL
AND DURING THAT TIME, WE GOT CLOSE.
BUT ISN'T IT POSSIBLE
...THAT SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY JUST FRIENDS?
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE RUDE.. TO SUDDENLY UP AND SAY THAT?!
BUT I WANT US TO BE JUST FRIENDS
IS THAT OKAY?
I'M SORRY. I REALLY LIKE YOU, SHUN...

UH, YEAH...
UMM.
...
YOU WOULDN'T LIKE ANYTHING ELSE?
IS THAT ...
...ASKING TOO MUCH?
AHA... I'M SORRY! IT WAS A BAD SUGGESTION, WASN'T IT?
DON'T GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT!
YOU'RE JUST A PART-TIME WORKER, FURUSAWA I CAN'T ASK YOU TO USE UP YOUR MONEY ON ME!!
TMP TMP TMP
I'M GOING TO GO CHANGE!
SUZUE NOTE
OR MAYBE..
A BIKE ENTHUSIAST LIKE FURUSAWA WOULD FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WITH A PASSENGER
OH, GOD! I CAN SPOUT THE STUPIDEST LINES!

SO.. I GUESS I'LL SLEEP HERE TONIGHT.
MITSURU'S BED IS THE TOP, RIGHT?
YES GOOD NIGHT.

HUH? THAT'S FURUSAWA'S ROOMMATE?
THE "ASIAN MUSKRAT OF GREENWOOD DORM."
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW HIM!

RUSTLE RUSTLE
ONOA VER KOOR


.....
TAP TAP
HUH?

KACHIK
YES?
YOU HAVE SOME TIME?
MITSURU ?

ALL RIGHT.

FURUSAWA SAID HE WANTS YOU TO GO HAVE A DRINK WITH HIM.
I THINK HE WANTS TO TALK.

THAT HIT PRETTY CLOSE TO HOME...
YOU HEARD THE STORY ABOUT SHUN?
THAT HIS GIRL JUST WANTED TO BE FRIENDS?
YOU MEAN THEY'RE ALL "FRIENDS"?
I'VE GOT "FRIENDS" ALL OVER THE PLACE.
DID YOU MEET ANY WHO WEREN'T?
NO, I DIDN'T MEET ANY
I HEAR YOU.
...YOU AND SHINOBU HAVE IT EASY
IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW
WHEN IT COMES TO GIRLS ..
ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T SEE THAT, JUST ISN'T LOOKING.
I DON'T KNOW... I HAVEN'T MET ALL THAT MANY GUYS AS GOOD-LOOKING AS YOU ARE

YOU MEAN ABOUT A CERTAIN GIRL?
I HEARD THAT YOU WERE THE GUY TO ASK ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING
YOU TWO AREN'T GETTING ALONG?
I HATE DOING THINGS I'M NOT USED TO DOING.
THE WHOLE DORM PROBABLY KNOWS
YOU ALREADY KNOW?
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT FROM THOSE GUYS
I DON'T WANT HER RIDING UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES!
IF THERE'S AN ACCIDENT, THE REAR PASSENGER IS IN MORE DANGER OF DYING.
IT'S IN THE PAST HOW CAN I HELP IT?
DID YOU SAY THOSE THINGS WHEN YOU TURNED HER DOWN?
I CAN HANDLE MYSELF IN AN ACCIDENT, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE I'D BE ABLE TO PROTECT HER.

I'M HOME
...
YEAH, I'M BACK
WELCOME BACK
I SEE ...
AND MR. BOSS IS ON DELIVERY
MRS. BOSS WENT OUT SHOPPING
WHERE'S MOTHER?
.....
OKAY
THEN ... UM ...
I'LL GET CHANGED, AND I'LL RELIEVE YOU ON THE REGISTER.

I'M SERIOUS!
.....
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY EXTRA WHISKY FOR SAYING THAT.
...IT WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY
WITH A GUY LIKE THAT...
THANK YOU!
OKAY
WELL, THESE THREE EAVESDROPPERS AREN'T PARAGONS OF VIRTUE THEMSELVES!

HELLO THANKS FOR CALLING KAWA-ZUMIYA LIQUORS
RRRRR
HUH?

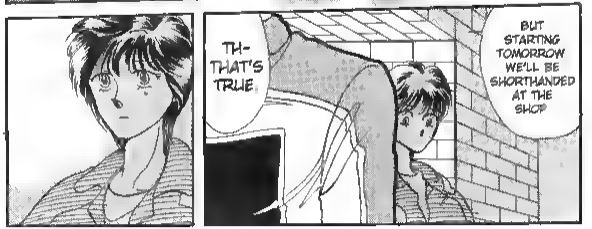
YOU MEAN MY FATHER?!
MY FATHER'S HURT!
HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT WHILE MAKING DELIVERIES! AN AMBULANCE IS TAKING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL NOW!
WHAT IS IT?
OKAY!
NAGAOKA MEDICAL, RIGHT?
GOT IT!
THANKS.

I'LL GO ON AHEAD AND CHECK ON HIM FOR YOU.
OH, WHAT'LL I DO?
CALM DOWN!
I HOPE HE'LL BE OKAY— HE'S SUCH A KLUTZ!
BUT AN ACCIDENT
HE MUST HAVE BEEN GOING TOO FAST, OR...

HOW CAN I...
PUT YOU IN DANGER TOO AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
I WANT TO GO, TOO! PLEASE TAKE ME!
NO.
JUST FOR NOW! JUST THIS ONCE!

HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT TO YOUR OWN FATHER?!
AT YOUR AGE, YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF AND QUIT WORRYING ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE OUT THERE!
WHAT ?!
IF IT'S BACK STRAIN, THEN JUST SAY IT'S BACK STRAIN! YOU PROBABLY RUSHED A DELIVERY AND HURT YOURSELF!
BACK STRAIN ACTUALLY HURTS A LOT
NAG

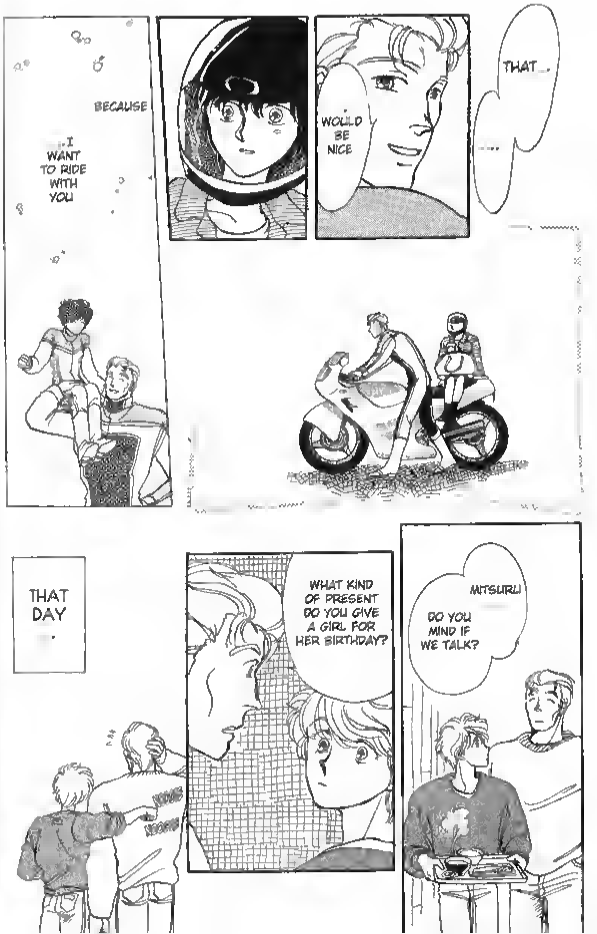
I'M JUST GLAD IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS
NO PROBLEM.
I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INVOLVED IN A FAMILY MATTER.
BUT DID YOU HEAR FATHER? MY GOD!


TH-THAT'S TRUE.
BUT STARTING TOMORROW WE'LL BE SHORTHANDED AT THE SHOP

THEN CLOSE UP SHOP, PACK A SUITCASE AND DON'T FORGET INSURANCE PAPERS
FIRST, GO NEXT DOOR AND ASK THEM TO LET YOUR MOTHER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
THEN GO TO THE HOSPITAL BY TAXI
OKAY
ALL RIGHT?

THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC.

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE!!
NAGAOKA
MEDICAL


BECAUSE
...I WANT TO RIDE WITH YOU
WOULD BE NICE
THAT...
THAT DAY
WHAT KIND OF PRESENT DO YOU GIVE A GIRL FOR HER BIRTHDAY?
MITSURU!
DO YOU MIND IF WE TALK?

GET ON.
EH?
OKAY... I-I'LL...
YOU DON'T MIND?
...WAS THINKING OF GETTING A MOTORCYCLE LICENSE
UM... I...

HE FOUGHT THE DESPERATE BATTLING CROWDS TO FIND A PRESENT.
AND FURUSAWA ENTERED A STORE MEANT ONLY FOR GIRLS.
— FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE YUKO OF THE KAWAZUMIYA LIQUOR STORE TIED A RIBBON ON A GIFT OF CHOCOLATE
MAYBE, BUT WHY ARE THERE ...
THEY'RE DOING PRETTY GOOD TODAY, HUH?
— SO MANY?
BECAUSE IT'S SUNDAY.
A DAY WHEN CONTENTMENT BECOMES TRUE HAPPINESS TODAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY.

***LOVE, YOUTH AND US:* THE END**

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Here is Greenwood™

Life at all-boys school Ryokuto Academy's dorm—more commonly known as Greenwood—has never been wackier. Cute teen idol Mieko Nitta needs two bodyguards, and since handsome upperclassman Mitsuru Ikeda and no-nonsense student Kazuya Hasukawa had a day's worth of experience doing just that, they get the job! But to their dismay, Mieko really does need bodyguards! Can anyone find bodyguards for the "bodyguards"? Then, take a peek into the private lives of all four of our heroes and how they spend their New Year's vacation. Finally, be treated to a Valentine's story about Jin'ichiro Furusawa, the tall, quiet, and incredibly strong biker dude! Could the manliest guy in the dorm possibly be more inept with girls than Kazuya?

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